

FBIS**DAILY REPORT
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'ARAFAT EULOGIZES PALESTINIANS KILLED IN CYPRUS

NC171332 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1220 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Speech delivered by PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat at the eulogy of the two Palestinians killed in Cyprus, presumably in Beirut on 17 December--recorded]

[Excerpt] This is a waterfall of blood gushing from this revolution. We are offering a martyr every day as a sacrifice at the altar of Palestine for the sake of Palestine. [applause]

Begin, Carter and the Camp David trio can kill, assassinate and wound Palestinians, but this revolution and march will continue until victory. [applause]

Let Begin and the terrorist office in his charge, which assassinates our leading (?revolutionaries), know that we are lying in wait for him. We will return to Palestine to turn things upside down on Begin.

We know that our path is long, difficult and thorny, but when we launched our revolution we said that it would be a march of free men, honest and strong men who will defy Begin, Carter and the Camp David trio.

IRANIAN DELEGATION MEETS WITH PNC SPEAKER AL-FAHUM

JN151439 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1338 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 15 Dec--Palestine National Council [PNC] Speaker Khalid al-Fahum received (Shaykh Mustafa Rahinma), chairman of the Iranian Society for Cooperation with Palestine, and his accompanying delegation today. The meeting was attended by Sami al-'Attari, PLO Central Council secretary.

Al-Fahum and Al-'Attari reiterated to the Iranian delegation the support of the PLO and the Palestinian people for the Islamic Revolution's struggle, under the leadership of Ayatollah Imam Khomeyni.

In a statement to a SANA correspondent, (Shaykh Rahinma) expressed his happiness at visiting Syria. He repeated the Islamic Revolution's support for the Palestinian people's struggle, under the PLO's leadership, to regain their usurped rights and establish their independent state on their national soil.

(Shaykh Rahinma) condemned the treasonous Camp David accords and affirmed that the Arab nation will defeat all attempts at surrender and prostration before imperialism and Zionism.

Concluding his statement, (Shaykh Rahinma) praised the progress and development in Syria brought about under President Hafiz al-Asad's leadership.

PALESTINIAN DELEGATION ARRIVES IN MOSCOW 17 DEC

JN172036 Baghdad INA in Arabic 2030 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Moscow, 17 Dec--A Palestinian delegation, headed by Palestine National Council Speaker Khalid al-Fahum, arrived here this evening on an official visit, at the invitation of the CPSU Central Committee.

Mr al-Fahum will hold talks with Soviet leaders on the latest developments in the Arab area in general, particularly in the Palestinian issue, and on Soviet-Palestinian relations.

LIBYAN AUTHORITIES DETAIN TWO PALESTINIAN LEADERS

NC180924 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 0530 GMT
18 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Libyan authorities yesterday arrested brother Dr Muhammad Hur, Fatah committee member, in Libya, and brother Ahmad al-Bardani, PLO representative in the Libyan city of Al-Bayda'. These ridiculous Libyan measures were taken following a seminar held in Al-Bayda' yesterday. The Palestinian masses in the city met with the so-called Libyan revolutionary committee, which, backed by Al-Qadhdhafi's intelligence organs, tried to sow sedition and divide the Palestinian masses. The committee asked the Palestinian masses to form Libyan-styled Palestinian revolutionary committees.

In response to these tendentious attempts by Libya, the Palestinian masses taught Al-Qadhdhafi's revolutionary committees a new lesson in struggle and emerged from the meeting in a demonstration stressing adherence to the PLO and its leadership as the sole, legitimate representative of the Palestinian people.

As a result of the failure of Al-Qadhdhafi's revolutionary committees, his authorities arrested brothers Muhammad Hur and Ahmad al-Bardani for questioning Al-Qadhdhafi's childish theses on the Palestinian people.

Reports from Tripoli say that the Libyan authorities, acting on orders from Al-Qadhdhafi, are exerting pressure to form a political committee for Palestinians residing in Libya in the absence of the PLO representative. The reports added that the recommendations to form this committee were made by the joint leadership before expelling the PLO's representative from Libya, before the attacks against its offices in Tripoli and Benghazi, before the deportation of its officials and before the information and political campaigns against it, which Al-Qadhdhafi himself is supervising.

The PLO is eager to affirm that any measure taken by the Libyan regime is null and void as well as illegitimate. The PLO considers surrender to Libyan pressure as a flagrant relinquishment of its independence and humiliating acceptance of Libyan interference in the Palestinian revolution's affairs. The shameful propagation of the Libyan campaign and measures as well as (?obedience) to the Libyan leadership will not conceal the fact that the propagators are implementing Al-Qadhdhafi's instructions to the letter.

Libyan measures such as expelling the PLO's representative, closing down its offices and deporting its officials are illegal, and any participation in these measures means participation in the Libyan campaign against the PLO. The PLO is the only legitimate framework for national Palestinian action, and its Executive Committee is the only source of power and decisions. The PLO Executive Committee alone reserves the right to form any framework for unitary action to strengthen the PLO's role in leading the patriotic struggle, in boosting the Palestinian people's unity and in rallying them around the PLO.

ATH-THAWRAH ATTACKS AL-QADHDHAFI, RAPPROCHEMENT WITH U.S.

NC161530 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1115 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Editorial from FALASTIN ATH-THAWRAH, PLO central organ, entitled: "The Palestinian People Are Above All Custodianships"; date of paper not given]

[Excerpts] Naturally, the Palestinian revolution will not respond to Al-Qadhdhafi's utterances. This is because ever since he acceded to power in the Libyan Arab region, the colonel has not said anything worth responding to or heeding.

Nor will the Palestinian revolution as much as glance at the absurdities uttered by the colonel in connection with Palestinian relations with this or that Arab regime under these or those circumstances.

Moreover, the Palestinian revolution is not angry. However, it will be saddened by the loss to the achievements of the Palestinian and Libyan peoples if Colonel al-Qadhdhafi closes the PLO office in Tripoli.

The Palestinian revolution, which does not heed any of these factors, wants to make four basic remarks on the measures which Al-Qadhdhafi and his minions have taken against the PLO office in Libya. Remark No 1: The manner in which these measures have been taken show how the Libyan authorities, headed by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi, have encouraged on the PLO's right to represent the Palestinian people. Whether Al-Qadhdhafi admits this or not, and whether he insists on it or says that he did not mean to do it, harming any aspect of this representation as a right means harming the very nature of this right and the whole of this right. When such harm is done, it makes no difference whether it is inflicted on an individual, an office, a popular organization, or on the nature of the right. On this basis, the closure of an office is one thing, while the replacement of the nature of the Palestinian representation with something else is something completely different.

Remark No 2: Through the measures which he has taken, Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has most naively tried to impose on the Palestinian people, or more accurately, on a part of this people, an experiment which is not their own and an organizational formula which is not the formula which they have chosen.

Remark No 3: In the Palestinian revolution, it would have been possible for us to consider Al-Qadhdhafi's measures as reflecting failure. However, because these measures are accompanied by a rapprochement between Al-Qadhdhafi and the United States, this prompts us to consider these measures as more than just a failure. In this respect, the colonel apologized to Washington for a Libyan popular action which resulted in the burning of the U.S. Embassy in Tripoli. At this point, the Libyan president reinforced the barrier between himself and these masses--a barrier which had been frail for a long time. However, the president was not content with action. He also apologized for his past threats to cut off oil to the United States. Thus, Al-Qadhdhafi has placed another barrier between himself and the Iranian Revolution, which is now involved in a fierce battle with U.S. imperialism. Previously, Al-Qadhdhafi had claimed that he was the partner of the Iranian Revolution. Al-Qadhdhafi went even further by calling for the release of the American hostages from their embassy in Tehran. He also became the defender of U.S. policy toward the Middle East claiming that this policy is neutral which, anyway, has been denied by Washington. Suddenly, the colonel disclosed that there had been intense contacts between him and the U.S. administration and he expressed his complete readiness to improve his relations with the United States. Naturally, Washington announced its pleasure over and support for the colonel's new policy line. Naturally, also we cannot draw a dividing line between this policy line and Al-Qadhdhafi's measures and his campaign against the Palestinian revolution. We say: Al-Qadhdhafi is merely settling a Palestinian bill, which is absolutely not his bill, in return for pleasing Washington.

Remark No 4: A dividing line cannot be drawn between these measures and this rapprochement with U.S. imperialism on the one hand, and the overall political moves in the area on the other.

Nor can these measures and this rapprochement be disassociated from the attack which the United States is spearheading in accordance with the Camp David designs against the area in general and against the Palestinian revolution and the Palestinian people in particular.

Al-Qadhdhafi's measures coincide with these designs in three respects: First, these measures tend to affect the question of the Palestinian people's representation; second, they coincide with the timing of the attack; and third, they justify dealing with the Zionist enemy. We wonder whether by justifying this dealing for Sa'd Haddad, Al-Qadhdhafi is creating justifications for Haddad, As-Sadat, or for himself in the future?

Therefore, which criteria can be used for deciding how to respond to these measures and to this campaign? As far as the Palestinians are concerned, this criteria is expressed in the statement issued by the PLO Central Committee and the statement issued by the Fatah movement Central Committee on the attitude of these two official sides toward this matter. However, in facing the attempt to tamper with Palestinian representation and with the Palestinian revolutionary experiment, it is imperative for this expression to be expanded and deepened in order to reflect national unity in its broadest forms, whether on the level of their evolution's groups or on the level of the Palestinian masses, including all their organizations wherever they are located.

In the Arab arena, the call made by the Fatah movement Central Committee for an Arab meeting on any level to discuss the matter is still valid--and it is necessary to respond to this call. There can be no doubt that this necessity stems from the fact that the pan-Arab commitment requires a discussion on any departure from, or harming of, the unanimous Arab resolutions which endorsed the struggling Palestinian people's right to choose their representatives on the one hand, and which specified the bases for joint Arab action on the other.

There can be no doubt that this Palestinian and Arab assessment is necessary from the perspectives of meaning and of action. We say this although we know beyond a shadow of a doubt that no one can eclipse with his little palm the sun of the Palestinian struggle or the light cast by the colossal revolutionary experiment which our people have carried out. We also say this despite our awareness that our heroic people, with all their revolutionary groups, will not bow to any extortion from any side and will accept as their pioneer only the great concepts laid down by their martyrs and strugglers with their blood and sweat.

SALAH KHALAF ON NICOSIA ASSASSINATIONS, AL-QADHDHAFI

NC161930 (Clandestine) Voice of Palestine in Arabic to the Arab World 1615 GMT 16 Dec 79 NC

[Speech by Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad on 16 December to mark the 40th day following the death of poet Yusuf Hassun--recorded]

[Excerpts] Brother Abu 'Ammar, brothers in the Revolution Command, sisters and brothers: It is not our habit to be sad. Nor is it our habit to weep. However, the caravan of martyrs has become a long one--and we are human beings. We can no longer bear going to the graveyards of the martyrs to bid them a final farewell. Our problem is that we cannot find a single mass grave for all of them. Our basic problem has become one of how to find an empty grave for a martyr or a cadre member.

How great is our need for the voice of poet Yusuf Hassun to sing with us in praise of Abu Safwat and Samir Tuqan, these two heroic martyrs who yesterday succumbed to the bullets of the Zionist enemy, who pursued us everywhere. As we commemorate poet Abu al-'Ala' today, it is imperative for us to mention Abu Safwat and martyr Samir Tuqan. We mention these two heroes and their children, their loved ones and their comrades.

I do not want to say this, but it is our right to be sad over our separation from our cherished ones, from these youths and from this very long caravan of martyrs. However, we want to follow our dear comrades, who have left us to suffer alone from this bad Arab state of affairs.

We we speak of these martyrs, we hear voices here and voices there giving us lessons in patriotism and the spirit of revolution. Is this not the tragedy of tragedies that some petty agents want to put us to shame by saying that we have sold out the revolution and the cause? Indeed we have sold out the revolution and the cause through blood. We paid for this revolution and this cause with the blood of our martyrs and our children. [applause]

It is we who must apologize to some Arab regimes, because this is the will of Col Mu'ammarr al-Qadhdhafi, the new prophet of this nation. I tell Colonel al-Qadhdhafi from here: If you are a clown, an undercover agent, a human being of the temperamental type or whatever you are and as you are, I am telling you from this place, beware of approaching the real men. We are the men of this revolution. [applause] We are the men of this revolution; we are the command of Fatah and we challenge Al-Qadhdhafi and we challenge every agent in this Arab nation. [applause]

He says that we have fabricated a battle with him. We have been bearing with this Al-Qadhdhafi for 5 years. Some people come out to tell us that any attack on Al-Qadhdhafi would benefit As-Sadat and Camp David. Who said this thing? We want no certificate of patriotism from anyone; we give such certificates to the whole world. [applause]

Since 1975, and even before that, we told him on behalf of the Fatah command: We are no hireling commands. [applause] We also tell you today that we are no hireling commands, not for you nor for any Arab regime. We are no hireling commands for anyone. [applause] We are commands for these martyrs and for these revolutionary cadres. We have stood our ground for 5 years, without having received a single cent for our revolution or our movement from this Al-Qadhdhafi. On the contrary, we have extended to him everything we own--and I do not want to mention what we have offered to him. However, we have given Al-Qadhdhafi everything he has asked for in order for him to defend Libya. We hope and still hope that Libya will be the base of freedom, dignity and this Palestinian revolution. We have given him the best military cadres so that they could fight alongside him in defense of the Libya of the masses and of the people.

However, what has Al-Qadhdhafi offered to us? What has he offered to this revolution? He has consistently offered attempts to drive a wedge among the Palestinians. He has tried to place obstacles in the way of national unity. He called for a substitute for the Palestine Liberation Organization [PLO] at the meeting of general secretaries [presumably of the Libyan popular committees]. He wanted a substitute for the PLO at bilateral meetings with this group or that group. He always dropped hints and made innuendos and we withstood this.

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INTER-ARAB AFFAIRS

Brothers and sisters, we tell Al-Qadhdhafi very quietly: If you want to pay a price in this manner to the United States, then find yourself another way. We represent a very high bill. [applause] Find yourself another bill, because we are not the bill which can be presented. We protect the independence of Palestinian decisionmaking with blood. We protect our rejection of custodianship, containment and subservience with blood. We reject outright the custodianship of money or ideology or any custodianship in this world. [applause]

Let these midgets around you, who try to portray you as a god and as the Prophet and as God's messenger, raise their voices as they please. However, it is imperative for you to know that we will reckon with you for your voice. We will answer with 1,000 words every word you say against this command and against Yasir 'Arafat. [applause]

Therefore, I say again that Colonel al-Qadhdhafi has not given us anything since 1975. If he wants to ask us to give him back what he offered us before 1975, then we are prepared to make our fighters take the clothes off their backs and return these funds to him. [applause] It is true that he pays some brothers; we are not against this. We also consider these funds as going to the Palestinian revolution. We know that every plaster which is given to any group goes to the Palestinian revolution. However, and since this occasion is one for frank talk, I say in the name of all those who know and those who do not know in the command, cadres and bases of the Fatah movement that, since 1975, we have not received from the Libya of Al-Qadhdhafi a single plaster.

Finally, I ask for the permission of brother Abu 'Ammar, brother Abu Jihad and the brothers, to say that I take pleasure in announcing that the Revolution Command has decided to bestow the shield of the revolution for arts and culture on martyr Abu al-'Ala'. Peace be with you. [applause]

On Lebanon, Iran, U.S.

LD141315 London AD-DUSTUR in Arabic 10-16 Dec 79 pp 18, 19 LD

[Interview granted by Fatah Central Committee member Abu Iyad to Layka Fayid at his residence in Beirut on the anniversary of the UN resolution to partition Palestine--date not given]

[Excerpts] [Question] Brother Abu Iyad, first of all, how do you assess the Tunis summit conference resolutions as far as you, as a Palestinian, and the Lebanese side are concerned?

[Answer] The Tunis summit's background might reflect what happened at the conference or what was expected to happen.

Before the conference, several different plans were propounded. Their only objective was to form a working basis for the conference and to guide its resolutions: Regarding the south, for example, there was Philip Habib's plan which, in essence, stipulated only the withdrawal of the [Palestinian] fighters from south Lebanon in the guise of establishing legitimacy and facilitating the UN Emergency Forces' tasks, and then the holding of a Camp David-type conference in which, according to what has been attributed to Philip Habib's plan and proposals, Syria, Lebanon, Jordan, Israel, the PLO and the United States would participate.

French views on solving the problem were then propounded, in addition to the Lebanese front's well-known views and the views of some people in government who are influenced by the front's views.

That was the background from which Fu'ad Butrus, for example, proceeded when he submitted to the Arab foreign ministers conference the Lebanese working paper later adopted by the Lebanese delegation at the summit.

As for the Palestinian stand, I believe that it was expressed in the statement addressed to the Lebanese delegation before the Arab kings and presidents: "You will not be able to take from us what Israel and America were unable to take from us by force of arms." This is due to one fact: Those who contemplate disarming the Palestinian revolution in south Lebanon are the same persons who want to facilitate the U.S. and Israeli task of settling the Palestinians in Lebanon and elsewhere. It is known that the autonomy plan will only solve--that is if what it offers constitutes a solution--the problem of the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza, because it does not deal with the problem of over 2 million Palestinians who are outside the occupied territories.

On this basis and on the basis of principles stands related to the revolution's existence and continuity as well as on the basis of the statements made by official and unofficial Lebanese spokesmen who reject settlement [of Palestinians in Lebanon], I believe that the Tunis summit understood the Palestinian principles stand and, on the basis of this stand, issued its recent resolutions which represented the interests of the Palestinians and primarily, the interests of Lebanon itself. Some people at the conference did not consider how serious the problem would become if the Palestinian delegation complied with the Lebanese working paper and what effect that would have had on the Palestinian cause.

[Question] A few days ago, you said: "None of the summit resolutions stipulates our withdrawal from the south." Do you not believe that the agreements previously concluded between the [Palestinian] resistance and the [Lebanese] Government make it incumbent on the resistance to withdraw from some positions? How would you coordinate with the Lebanese Government in the event of the Lebanese Army entering the south?

[Answer] What is more important than the agreements, including the Cairo agreement, and what they mean as far as we and the Lebanese Government are concerned, is the factor of confidence, the lack of which has been the cause of all the problems since 1973. When confidence exists, I believe that all issues are easy to resolve. We have never opposed the Lebanese Army's deployment in the south. On the contrary. Some 1,000 Lebanese soldiers are present in the south now, both in the eastern sector, where their advance has been halted in Kawkaba by Israeli forces in the guise of Sa'd Haddad, and in the western sector, where a Lebanese regiment is present with the UN Emergency Forces.

As for armed demonstrations in cities and populated areas, we are for ending them, especially the improper practices which affect our relations with the masses.

Regarding the Lebanese Government's official administration, we have never opposed its presence in the south. However, one certain fact remains--that is, we are not the only party in the south. The government is supposed to deal with all the national forces there and not ignore their presence, because all problems in Lebanon can be resolved only through understanding and agreement with all parties.

[Question] Have contacts begun between you and the Lebanese Government?

[Answer] Contacts are taking place, but no official meeting has been held. We are waiting for such a meeting between the Lebanese Government and the PLO in order to define the steps to implement what has been agreed on. I repeat, however, that the government must inevitably take the other parties into consideration during the meetings and dialog.

[Question] At the previous summit the Palestinian side called for severing relations with the United States. It is now being constantly rumored that contacts exist with the Americans to reach a solution to the Palestinian problem. How true is this, and what is the reality of the relations with the United States?

[Answer] Our relations with the United States were, still are and will continue to be relations of a people against whom all kinds of American crimes have been committed and whose simplest human rights have been disregarded by America. The bombs which hit the south and our Palestinian camps are all made in America. Israel's existence is in itself more a U.S. stand than a military force entrenching this entity which is alien to our Arab nation. One can only laugh when one hears of secret contacts with the United States. Those who seek to distort the image of the Palestinian leadership, the PLO, and who want to play with fire are attempting, as part of a plan, to release a balloon full of rumors about certain contacts or, according to rumormongers, contacts about contacts with America.

In principle, we are for the recognition of our people's rights and the PLO by the whole world, including the United States, and we do not conceal this. However, that is one thing, and attempts to whitewash America's policy and its ugly face are something else. What is regrettable is that many such rumors originate from quarters which have open connections with American circles.

Such were the recent rumors about the mediation between America and Iran. In any confrontation between Iran and the United States we unhesitatingly, and without being diplomatic about it, stand with Iran and with any other people in the world confronting the United States and its threats.

At the recent Tunis conference which represented all the Arabs, the delegates were aware which side was calling for denunciation of U.S. policy and which side expressed reservations and defended and called for softening the tone of expressions as far as the United States was concerned.

When we heard Al-Qadhdhafi demanding in the joint Libyan-Iranian statement that we sever Arab relations with the United States and cut off oil supplies, we were the first to cheer Al-Qadhdhafi and Libya, provided he would be the first to sever relations and oil supplies and so set an example to others and not allow these statements to remain mere statements.

[Question] Is there a hope that the U.S. position will change, especially after the coming presidential election?

[Answer] I have no such hopes. The American administration has a stable policy--the policy charted in 1947, which is continuing and which will remain as it is until the American people realize the price they have paid for siding with Israel.

[Question] Do you believe that the current confrontation between the Iranian Revolution and the United States portends danger or war in the area?

[Answer] I believe that the United States does not dare to stage an operation to occupy Iran or to confront it militarily.

Should it commit such a foolish act, the operation would not affect Iran alone but would hit American interests in the Arab area and the Middle East. There is also the Soviet Union, which is bound by the 1922 treaty with Iran. The treaty stipulates that any foreign interference gives the Soviet Union the right to intervene (even though the Iranian Government has unilaterally abolished two articles in the treaty, the Soviet Union still has the right to intervene because the treaty cannot be unilaterally abrogated).

For this reason, I exclude the likelihood of intervention by the American aircraft carriers, because then the battle would not be confined to its local framework but would spread much further.

[Question] It is observed that Austrian Chancellor Kreisky is again propounding his plan to bring the Palestinian and Israeli sides together. To what extent can you respond to Kreisky?

[Answer] The talk about Kreisky leads us to talk about all the European contacts which, as we have already explained, bear the character of political propaganda and gains irrespective of the differences in viewpoints. This applies to our dealings with Kreisky.

Naturally, there is no identity or agreement in the views and stands with the states which brother Abu 'Ammar visited. Likewise, many of Kreisky's views do not represent ours. Some of his statements, however, could be positive with respect to the recognition of the PLO, the establishment of an independent state and our people's right to self-determination.

VOL REPORTS ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST FARUQ QADDUMI

NC151740 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[Text] It was learned today that the head of the PLO's Political Bureau, Mr Faruq Qaddumi, escaped an assassination attempt in Paris as he was about to take a taxi to the airport in order to travel to New York. However, the French police--which were providing protection to Qaddumi--succeeded in arresting the culprit who had a loaded pistol in his possession.

PLO chief Mr Yasir 'Arafat was promptly informed about the attempt. Mr 'Arafat dispatched a PLO security delegation to obtain details about the French police's investigations and to negotiate the handing over of the culprit to the PLO. The French authorities have refused to do so, however, preferring to refer the culprit to the French courts in accordance with their own laws.

KUWAIT

KUWAIT TIMES COMMENTS ON QOTBZADEH, HOSTAGES

LD171116 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0725 GMT 17 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 December--The Kuwaiti English-language paper the KUWAIT TIMES comments today on the statement by Iranian Foreign Minister Qotbzadeh that the shah's departure from the United States is a victory for Iran and that the U.S. citizens detained in Tehran might not be put on trial. However, the paper expresses its fears that this statement might lead to Qotbzadeh's removal from office, as was the case with his predecessor, Abolhasan Bani Sadr, unless his statement is approved by the Iranian religious leader, Imam Khomeyni.

The paper praises Qotbzadeh's statement and affirms that the departure of the deposed shah was truly a victory for Iran in its battle against the United States. The United States, ally of the shah, grew tired of him and sent him to a remote place where it hopes he will stay out of sight. The United States hopes that by so doing it will defuse the crisis between it and Iran which has reached a deadlock.

The KUWAIT TIMES also refers to unconfirmed reports that Imam Ayatollah Khomeyni will release the hostages at Christmas as a gesture to win international support, which almost turned against Iran because of the hostages, and says: "Let Khomeyni do so now that he has smeared U S. prestige, curbed its arrogance and exposed its wrong practices against Iran."

In conclusion, the paper expresses the hope that Imam Khomeyni will ask the students now occupying the embassy to release the hostages and thus score a victory. It will show Islamic magnanimity and unify his country so that it may stand behind him in his revolutionary march.

PAPER WARNS U.S. AGAINST PRESENT POLICY TOWARD IRAN

LD171032 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0710 GMT 17 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Kuwait, 17 December--The Kuwait paper AR-RA'Y AL-'AMM writes today that the United States is trying to starve Iran by means of the economic boycott it is trying to impose. The paper adds that the starvation operation will force "the starved people to attack with the sword." The paper points out that starvation cannot solve any problem and is morally unacceptable.

Washington's use of this weapon, the paper adds, means that it has sparked a war in the gulf which is close to a crusade and will force those who do not approve of some aspects of the Iranian position to drop their reservations.

The paper warns that Washington is trying to incite the Iranian leadership and to strengthen the impression that Imam Khomeyni is the arch confronter of Washington. It hopes to defeat him and thus defeat any confrontation against Washington. The paper calls on Washington to remember that all the great empires of history met their end in this region.

OMAN

GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO INCREASE OIL PRICES BY \$6 PER BARREL

JN171506 Doha QNA in Arabic 1450 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Muscat, 17 December--Omani Petroleum and Minerals Under Secretary Salim Sha'ban has said the Sultanate of Oman intends to increase its oil prices by \$6 a barrel, bringing the price of one barrel to \$30.

In a statement today, Sha'ban said the Sultanate of Oman has deferred making a decision on the subject until after the OPEC meeting in Caracas to determine whether the oil price increase by gulf countries will be part of OPEC's decisions or an addition to them. The Sultanate of Oman increased its oil prices by 10 percent on 1 October, bringing the price of one barrel of oil to \$24. Oman is not a member of OPEC.

PDRY

GOVERNMENT REPORTEDLY SEEKING NORMALIZATION WITH SOMALIA

LD170947 London ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 14 Dec 79 p 1 LD

[Correspondent report: "Aden and Somalia Fail to Resolve Their Differences"]

[Text] Mogadishu--ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT has learned that YAR President Lt Col 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih had initiated a dialog between Aden and Somalia with a view to establishing cordial relations, setting aside past differences and restoring normalcy between the two countries. This took place during the Somali vice president's visit to San'a', but the initiative has produced no positive results.

It was learned that Aden had requested San'a's intervention, and the YAR's mediation led to the Somali vice president's paying a secret visit to Aden. Well-informed sources said that South Yemini officials explained their country's previous attitude to Somalia, which emerged as a result of an international alliance between Aden, Ethiopia, Cuba and the Soviet Union, by saying that Aden was obliged to adopt such an attitude, and asked Somalia to consider this as something in the past that will not recur.

The sources said that Aden expressed its desire to restore trade and economic relations to their old level. It also expressed its desire for the normalization of Soviet-Somali relations and vouched for good Soviet intentions despite Soviet attitudes toward Somalia in the past. The sources added that the Somali delegate accepted this, subject to Somali Government approval and pending a report on the matter to President Siad Barre. The Somali Government insisted that the rebel liberation fronts have a right to condemn the Soviet attitude--something which Moscow does not accept because it believes Somalia is supporting these fronts. The sources said that Aden had explained its views regarding the Red Sea and the Indian Ocean and called on Somalia to adopt a unified attitude with it. But the Somali side rejected this, regarding Soviet presence in the area as a threat to international peace and security. No statement or reference was made about the visit, at Somalia's request.

QATAR

AMIR RECEIVES IRANIAN AMBASSADOR TO KUWAIT

JN171859 Manama GULF NEWS AGENCY in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Doha, 17 December--This evening, the Qatari amir, Shaykh Khalifah ibn Hamad Al Thani, received Iranian Ambassador to Kuwait Dr 'Ali Shams Ardakani, who is currently on a visit to Qatar. During the meeting, the Iranian ambassador conveyed a verbal message to the Qatari amir from the Iranian Government, dealing with cooperation between the Iranian Government and the Gulf states in various spheres.

NOVEMBER OIL EXPORTS DOWN 4.5 PERCENT FROM OCTOBER

LD161023 Kuwait KUNA in Arabic 0739 GMT 16 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Doha, 16 December--According to official sources here today, Qatar's oil exports during the month of November dropped by about 4.5 percent compared to its exports in October.

The November oil exports totaled 14.93 million barrels, or 497,823 barrels a day, compared to 15.63 million barrels, or 521,059 barrels a day in October.

SAUDI ARABIA

MINISTERS DISCUSS MOSQUE ATTACK, INTERNAL DEVELOPMENT

LD172008 Riyadh SNA in Arabic 1850 GMT 17 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Riyadh: The Council of Ministers at 1830 this evening held a meeting with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy prime minister, in the chair. The meeting lasted until 2115. His Excellency Shaykh Husayn al-Kansuri, the minister of communications, told SNA that His Royal Highness Crown Prince Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz, the deputy prime minister, informed the council at the beginning of the meeting that an interrogation of the heretical, misled clique is taking place and that it is expected to end in a short time. The criminals will then be punished for their actions.

His Royal highness said: The assault on the Holy Mosque and the shedding of blood there is one of the most formidable and ugliest crimes in Islamic history. His royal highness added: We will never allow that incident to hinder the march of development and growth at home nor will it make us change our external policy which is based on backing Islamic and Arab rights.

His royal highness went on to say: So far, the involvement of any foreign power in the sedition has not been proved although it is evident that the enemies of Islam and Arabism exploited the incident to sow confusion through the foreign information media and exaggerated the events to inflate their importance. His royal highness explained that the objectives of these enemies are known; namely to harm the reputation of the kingdom. He confirmed that such endeavors will not benefit the perpetrators and said that they are doomed to failure.

His royal highness said: Recent events have proved the loyalty of the people toward their leadership. They also have proved the authenticity of the Saudi citizen and his true nationalism. He added: We implore the Almighty to grant his mercy and forgiveness to the martyrs. His royal highness also said the citizens will never forget the sacrifices of the gallant soldiers who hastened to purge the holy place.

The crown prince continued: We are working to prepare decent, comfortable lives for all citizens, following the teachings of the pure Islamic Shari'a, adhering to them and adopting them as our constitution in all affairs of society. His royal highness pointed out that only the ignorant believe that the Islamic Shari'a contradicts development and the efforts to provide all means of comfort for every citizen as well as to adopt modern technology and complex modern sciences.

His royal highness added: We do not claim to be perfect. We are always prepared for self-examination and to reform our situation. His royal highness went on: The painful incident will be analyzed carefully and assiduously in order to obtain lessons which will benefit us while we are continuing the march of construction and (?development).

His royal highness pointed out that it is the duty of every sincere citizen to advise those in charge of any public affair, particularly since the doors of the officials, beginning with his majesty the king, are open to all. Their hearts are open to any proposal or complaint. His royal highness confirmed that the incident will make us adhere more closely to our religion, faith and ethics.

YAR

GDR ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN SAN'A' 16 DEC

JN161458 San'a' Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] A GDR economic delegation arrived in San'a' this morning led by Leonard Orschel, general director of the Foreign Trade Ministry and chief of the Arab Department, on a visit of several days to the YAR. The delegation will hold talks with officials from the Economy Ministry, the Central Planning Department and commercial establishments on bolstering and developing bilateral economic relations.

Leonard Orschel, the head of the delegation, told the SABA' NEWS AGENCY that the delegation will hold talks with officials from concerned ministries, establishments and chambers of commerce on the development of economic relations. He expressed hope that the talks will result in a number of bilateral economic and trade cooperation agreements. He concluded his statement by saying that YAR-GDR relations are traditional in many fields, particularly in trade and economy.

The delegation was received at the airport by a number of officials from the foreign and economy ministries and by the GDR charge d'affaires in San'a'.

PRIME MINISTER KHALIL DELIVERS POLICY STATEMENT

NC151515 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1020 GMT 15 Dec 79 NC

[Government policy statement delivered by Prime Minister Dr Mustafa Khalil at the People's Assembly in Cairo--live]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. I am honored today to submit to you a statement on the government's policy in one of the most crucial stages in the country--the stage of deepening democracy after the April 1979 referendum on the peace agreements and the principle of democratic reorganization and strengthening of the state. This came after the signing of the peace treaty on 26 March 1979.

The great peace initiative of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat has made it possible to lay down the bases for comprehensive peace in the area.

While representing the National Democratic Party [NDP] I hereby reaffirm, as I did before, that we are the government of all Egypt. We work in accordance with the NDP programs and policies, but at the same time welcome any objective opposition that is detached from doubt-casting, provocation, and false accusations. The aim of the government is to offer solutions that are in the interest of this country. We have promised the honorable People's Assembly--and we here repeat our pledge--that we will respect the rule of law. No official is above the law. We will endeavor to insure that we all live in security and safety under the canopy of national unity and social peace. As I said before, the government will confront all corruption and deviation. The definition of corruption and deviation is not confined to financial matters but also includes any undermining of Egypt's reputation as well as the leveling of any charges without evidence in an attempt to harm the regime and its image.

In its strengthening of democracy under the supremacy of the law, the aim of the government is to establish social peace and maintain national unity, both of which we must very much preserve, because we are engaged in the battle of peace, which is a real battle. We will resist all the elements of division and internal incitement. We will also meet all the challenges which may appear in the coming period.

Great achievements have been made in the past year, whether in the domain of foreign policy or in the domestic field, as we will show in detail in our statement. Despite the challenges it was faced with, the government has managed to shoulder the financial and economic burdens without aid from the Arab states and despite the measures taken by these states such as the suspension of economic aid and the failure of the Arab developments funds to finance the contracts concluded by Egypt. In the past year the government managed to achieve about 9 percent economic growth. It also repaid the installments due on schedule, and provided the necessary foreign currency to pay for our commodity imports. The government was able to provide all the materials necessary for production and all other commodities. There were no shortages other than a soap shortage which lasted only for a brief period.

Thanks to the sincere aid from the friendly states, especially the United States, Western Europe and others, the government was not only able to deal with the situation but to achieve an economic situation better than that of 1978.

Tidings of peace came and the attrition stopped. Three-quarters of Sinai and its wealth returned to Egypt. Finance markets in the Western states and other states, as a result of the confidence growing from peace, offered the necessary funds for our production projects. So much so that it has become possible to submit to you in this year's budget an investment policy, fully financed by local and foreign funds, to the value of 3.1 billion pounds, including 84 million pounds for the Green Revolution.

signing of the peace treaty has led to domestic stability in Egypt and to more confidence in its economy. This has encouraged Egyptian and foreign investors to increase their investments and has encouraged Egyptians abroad to transfer more money to Egypt. On behalf of the government, I have always emphasized that these investments are safe and secure in accordance with the laws of the land.

Mr Speaker and members, the past year has also been characterized by the promulgation of a number of laws which can truly be considered as a revolution in the development of Egyptian society.

Here reference should be made to Presidential Order 101 issued on 13 May 1979. In its first article, this order gave Prime Minister and Deputy Military Governor General Dr Mustafa Khalil all the powers of the president of the republic stipulated in Law 162 of 1958 regarding the state of emergency. I would like to point out here that this authorization was used only in one case. This case was a result of the Baghdad conference resolutions, which infringed upon the economy of Egypt. It transpires that the emergency law was not enforced at all except for the purpose of insuring the country's supreme interests in the economic field.

Egypt did not freeze any Arab funds or restrict dealings in Arab funds. On the contrary, as I have previously stated, the government guarantees all the security and stability necessary for these Arab funds and investments under the laws of the country.

Mr Speaker, honorable members of the assembly: Allow me to explain the part related to foreign policy. At this historic and important juncture in the life of our glorious nation and the whole world, we meet together today to review the events of this year which is about to end and to discuss what we intend to do next year.

In its political activity Egypt is guided by fundamental principles from which it does not depart no matter what the cost, because it believes that under the present international system adherence to principles must not be weakened under pressure from interests and opportunistic temptations.

Foremost among these fundamental principles is adherence to nonalignment as a philosophy, policy and course of action. We believe that the nonaligned movement, despite the tempests and pressures it is being subjected to, is still qualified to play a positive and active role in reducing world tension, opposing military pacts, limiting the proliferation of weapons, protecting the interests of small and medium countries in the face of the rich and industrially advanced countries and in establishing a new economic world order that will achieve greater justice and equality.

However, we must realize that there are certain prerequisites that must be met if we are to achieve these goals. Foremost of these prerequisites is protecting the movement from the phenomenon of foreign intervention, removing the control of some foreign powers over the movement and ending the conflict among member states of the movement. This conflict opposes the concept of the movement which sprang up from this good earth and received an immense response in the three continents.

As you recall, in his dealings with the two superpowers, leader-President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat [applause] has always expressed Egypt's adherence to the principles of nonalignment. We deal with the two superpowers without complexes or sensitivities. We are ready to extend bridges of cooperation to each of them as long as they show sincere readiness and positive response.

We reject any interference in our internal affairs. We also reject the policy of axes, spheres of influences and exploitation. We insist on establishing relations on the basis of mutual respect, respect for sovereignty and equality.

His excellency the president expressed these principles in his speech to the U.S. Congress on 5 November 1975 [date as heard]. I also did not hesitate to reaffirm these principles in the two letters which I sent to the U.S. secretary of state on 25 and 26 March 1979. In these two letters I informed the U.S. Government of Egypt's rejection of the pledges the United States had given to Israel regarding the implementation of the peace treaty. I also informed the U.S. Government of Egypt's refusal to enter into similar pledges with the United States because they imply intervention or entering into a military pact--something which is contradictory to Egypt's firm and principled line.

This attitude on our part does not mean that we are not proud of the friendship that links us with the U.S. leadership and people and of the fruitful cooperation between the two countries in the various fields, particularly in the fields of accelerating development and strengthening Egypt's defense capabilities.

From the same premise, we view relations with the Soviet Union from the angle of concern to establish relations of cooperation on sound bases that will be devoid of the negative aspects of the past and give the chance for a straight course in the present and the future.

Needless to say, we also welcome cooperation with the other European countries with which we are linked by strong ties and intermingled interests based on geographic considerations, an interrelationship of strategic security and a common desire to consolidate stability and enhance progress and prosperity.

Moreover, we have a special relationship with three circles--the Arab circle, the Islamic circle and the African circle.

False propaganda and tendentious calls cannot erase the fact that Egypt is part of the Arab nation. This affiliation is not a reward which can be bestowed and then withdrawn. Nor is it decided through a decree by someone, but is a tangible reality expressing itself in the people's conscience. Nor do we view this affiliation as an inevitable fate which has been imposed on us, but as the outcome of a free choice based on conscious awareness that our civilization is an inseparable part of the Arab nation's civilization in the past, present and the future.

Therefore, we believe in this affiliation, paying no attention to those who hold grudges against us. We are following the course we have charted, full of confidence in ourselves and of faith in God and the mission with which he has entrusted the Arab nation and with complete dedication to the Arab cause.

Therefore, we do not define our Arab commitments in light of the behavior of some Arab regimes toward us. Nor do we allow any foreign power to undermine our Arab obligations. Hence, we refused to allow the obligations arising from the peace treaty with Israel to take any precedence over our Arab obligations.

I wish to reaffirm before your excellencies that Egypt will remain loyal to its pan-Arab commitments, which stem from its faith in the unity of aim and destiny with the other peoples of our glorious nation. These peoples are well aware of Egypt's position in the march of the Arab struggle and can distinguish with historical awareness between those who are dedicating themselves to the fateful issues and all the dangers and consequences they entail and those who are using empty slogans and boisterous speeches to conceal their bankruptcy and their failure to pay the tax of struggle.

Perhaps it is appropriate for me to reaffirm what we declared before--that Egypt is the protective shield of the Arab nation everywhere and that we will not hesitate to help any Arab people subjected to aggression from any source. We consider that the Arab people's prosperity and stability are primary among the goals we are seeking to achieve and for which we are mobilizing our human and material resources. Foremost of these resources is the Egyptian military power, which will remain the faithful guard of the nation's interests and holy places and the safety valve for the security and stability of the area.

We are primarily concerned about the territorial safety of every Arab country and the unity of its national soil because should national entities be shaken, this would adversely affect the greater national entity. This is why we hastened to assist fraternal Morocco. We also repeatedly called for the need to preserve the unity of Lebanon--people and territory. We rejected the calls of secessionists, isolationists and the elements of foreign intervention lying in wait for Lebanon.

It saddens us to see conflicts covering the Arab homeland from west to east. Such conflicts should not exist between the interests of two Arab peoples.

The current differences, which drain much of our nation's potential, are fabricated by certain regimes which believe they will thus serve their narrow interests and are fanned by foreign elements which do not like to see the Arab nation as one firm, cohesive body.

We have always rejected the establishment of axes within the single family. We have always fought any attempt to classify the sons of the single nation into progressives and reactionaries. We also regard the new axes which some regimes want to establish under the slogan of rejection as temporary negative phenomena which our glorious nation will transcend and place in the proper framework.

It is regrettable that some regimes have used the Palestinian people's tragedy as an instrument for maneuvering and as a trading commodity, although this tragedy could serve to save all the sons of the Arab nation, clear their vision and serve as an incentive to them for positive work and unremitting activity for the restoration of the Palestinian people's rights, foremost of which is their right to self-determination like all other nations and peoples.

Egypt has greatly contributed to consolidating the position of the PLO, not out of a desire to contain and emasculate it, as others are doing, but out of a conviction that consolidating the political organs of the Palestinian people will bring them closer to achieving their national legitimate rights, the fulfillment of which is a basic condition for the just and permanent peace which we are seeking to achieve in the area.

The PLO has scored a great diplomatic success in the past few years. Most of the states in the world now recognize the PLO and its right to participate in the peace efforts. This recognition is no longer restricted to certain geographic areas or political groups but covers all continents. It remains for the PLO leadership to play its natural role in this decisive historic phase by unequivocally declaring its readiness to shoulder the responsibilities of peace, foremost of which is reaching an arrangement with Israel within the framework of mutual recognition of a cease-fire and a mutual renunciation of acts of violence. Such a step will deprive the foes of the Palestinian people of the most important weapons they are using to prevent them from achieving their national rights.

Mr Speaker, honorable members of the assembly: Our believing people were shocked by the criminal attack on the Grand Mosque in holy Mecca. We stood, individuals and organizations, alongside the brothers in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Muslims everywhere in their denunciation of this aggression against the holiest of our holy places and in their determination to put an end to this aggression and to mete out the deterrent punishment to the aggressors.

Egypt, which is the citadel of faith and the home of the grand Al-Azhar, the oldest Islamic university, is greatly proud of the ties linking it with all the Islamic peoples without exception and considers them a partner in the struggle for human dignity, justice and the people's right to progress and development according to their ideals and principles.

From this premise, we have always welcomed the consolidation of the ties of solidarity and cooperation with the Iranian people, particularly when the Iranian people's leadership showed a desire to strengthen ties with Egypt and to support the Arab struggle for the liberation of the land and the restoration of the legitimate national rights. Just as with any other people, we did not contest the right of the Iranian people to determine their own affairs without outside intervention or dictate and to freely choose their road to development and progress.

Therefore, we supported the Iranian Revolution and issued an official statement on this support. We also expressed readiness to maintain the cooperation that had existed in the near past on principled and objective bases. We recognized the new regime and called on foreign powers not to intervene in Iran's affairs out of a desire to safeguard the Iranian people's rights.

Regrettably, this revolution soon suffered from deviations and transgressions whose negative effects were not confined to the Iranian people alone but extended to several countries in the Middle East. The image of the tolerant Islamic region was also distorted.

Under the veil of Islam, the Iranian regime raised differences and regional ambitions with fraternal Islamic Arab countries. This is considered a clear departure from the Islamic concept of brotherhood and solidarity among the sons of the Islamic nation. The Iranian regime has also begun to spread unrest and disturbances to create an atmosphere of instability. It declared with words and deeds that it pays no heed to international legality. It allowed the holding of hostages as an instrument in the political game and involved Islam's name in all this. It was our duty to adopt an attitude opposing these transgressions.

We repeat our call on the authorities in Tehran to release the hostages immediately and respect the rules of law and legality, out of concern for interests of the Iranian people themselves and to safeguard the image of Islam and Islamic civilization.

Out of loyalty to humane principles, the Egyptian leadership and its legislative authority declared our readiness in principle to allow the former shah to come to Egypt as a refugee and in his personal capacity. This is in line with a tradition Egypt has followed at all times, even toward those who did harm to it at certain times, let alone toward those who stood alongside it in the times of hardship and supported the just Arab cause.

The Egyptian people are very proud of the deep ties they have with all the fraternal African peoples, who have always been in the forefront of the forces which supported Egypt's just cause and its right to liberate its land by all military and political means.

I must also note the exemplary cooperation that exists between us and three friendly socialist states--the PRC, North Korea and Romania. As a matter of fact this cooperation is an example in the field of cooperation among states.

Mr Speaker, honorable members of the assembly: The year 1979 saw the most outstanding achievement by the Arab people in their modern history. Israeli occupation has receded from the greater part of Sinai. According to the peace treaty, Israel will withdraw to the international boarder and the Israeli settlements in Egyptian territory will be dismantled. [applause] Thus, all our resources will return to us, which will contribute to building prosperity in Egypt. This nation and pan-Arab achievement was the result of President Muhammad Anwar as-Sadat's historic initiative. [applause]

The implementation of the provisions of the peace treaty has proceeded normally without any problems worth mentioning. This is a notably positive phenomenon.

Let me state that Egypt, in goodwill, intends to honor everything it has committed itself to do, because we are loyal people. When we make a promise, we fulfill it, and if we make a commitment, we honor it. This is because we consider this to be a necessary prerequisite for stable international relations. It is also a principle that we consider a guarantee for the peaceful recovery of the Arab territories on the other fronts. At the same time, we expect the other side to honor its commitments and undertakings. We will not tolerate any failure or slackness in this respect.

After the interim withdrawal stage is concluded, the stage of work will begin for the normalization of relations in successive stages. This stage will begin with the exchange of ambassadors to facilitate contact between the two sides. This will be followed by negotiations, to begin within 6 months from the exchange of ambassadors, on issues connected with the normalization of relations in the economic other spheres.

Parallel with this, we expect more progress in the autonomy negotiations so that we will conclude the negotiations on schedule and so that free elections for Palestinian autonomy will begin. In so doing, we will be opening the door for the first concrete change in the course of the Palestinian issue since the start of the conflict. This is because the problem has never been tackled in such a comprehensive manner.

Everyone knows that we have not assumed the right to represent the Palestinian people or to speak on their behalf. We are the last to impose custodianship or solutions on them. All we are doing is to open the way before them by ending Israeli occupation and starting the process for the exercise of Palestinian authority. This is a national duty which no one dictated to us; we accepted it out of our belief in the pan-Arabism of the issue and the special relationship which has existed between the Egyptian and Palestinian peoples throughout history. The Palestinian people will continue to decide on anything connected with their self-determination and the final settlement of the problem.

Autonomy talks were held at the ministerial and technical levels. Tangible progress has been achieved, especially in regard to agreement as to the side that will be in charge of all the election measures and supervision in order to insure honesty and impartiality away from the Israeli military rule and its civilian administration. This is the central committee for elections, consisting of Israeli members--not from the Israeli military government or its civil administration--as well as Palestinian and other members and representatives of circles to be agreed upon. It can be said that the Palestinians will directly participate in supervising the elections and insuring that they are held freely. Egypt insists that the Palestinians living in Arab Jerusalem should take part in the autonomy elections because this part of the city is considered legally to be part of the West Bank. The international community joins us in not recognizing the measures taken by Israel to change the legal status of the city.

As for the negotiations on the powers and responsibilities of the Palestinian autonomy, the various powers and responsibilities exercised by the Israeli military government and its civilian administration in the West Bank have been defined preparatory to transferring them to the autonomous Palestinian government upon its election. We insist on the need to transfer all of these authorities and responsibilities to the Palestinian autonomy in implementation of the provisions and spirit of the agreement signed at Camp David.

Needless to say, it is essential to reach agreement on the remaining issues in order to continue the peace process and to insure stability and security in the region. Therefore, we look with utmost interest to the development of the negotiations in the coming stage. Much depends on the results of these negotiations. Their failure will lead to serious consequences which will affect all parties, including the Israeli people after they have opted for peaceful coexistence with all their Arab neighbors. The Palestinian people cannot be excluded from this formula for coexistence. On the other hand, the existing formula, which is based on military occupation and coercion, is unacceptable to the Palestinians, the Egyptians and the Arabs. The international community has also expressed its unanimous rejection of this formula and called for an end to it.

I must state that Egypt is opposed to the Israeli policies and measures that do not help instill trust in the Palestinians and contradict the spirit of Camp David. The most important of these measures are those related to the building of settlements on Arab territory, whether public or private, because this territory belongs only to the Palestinian people. The building of settlements in this manner is the worst example of neighborliness and coexistence because it is based on hostility, friction and provocations, at a time when we are in dire need of all that would lead to rapprochement between the parties to the conflict and the removal of their fears and suspicions. We are also opposed to the Israeli measures that restrict freedom, such as the banning of political activity, that restrict expression of opinion, and that allow the deportation of anyone simply because he voices certain views--and not even publicly. Israel was expected to take measures quite different from those it has adopted in the past months and weeks to honor the understanding reached between the two countries--with U.S. participation--regarding confidence-building measures and measures to ease the sufferings of the Palestinian people. Foremost among these measures is the lifting of the ban on political activity; release of political detainees and prisoners; permitting the return of refugees for family reunion; and other such measures included in the note submitted by Egypt to Israel and the United States on 12 October 1978--the day after the Blair House talks began in Washington. We still urgently call on the Israeli Government to fulfill its commitments in this respect to show goodwill and attract Palestinians to the peace process.

At a time when the whole world is praising the Egyptian initiative and its positive effects on the Arab issue, we find that some Arab regimes have hastened to attack and reject the Camp David agreements. The Baghdad conference was a step back, a setback, affecting the Arab nation's struggle for its just rights. Although the conference unanimously endorsed the peaceful method in solving the dispute, it adopted a series of political and economic resolutions against Egypt and its people, instead of devoting its efforts to work for the good of the national issue.

On the economic level, the Arab regimes proceeded in the direction of stopping all forms of cooperation with Egypt. They suspended the implementation of the contracts concluded with the Arab development funds and demanded the withdrawal of their deposits in the Egyptian bank. Not even war production was left out of this campaign. The governments of the states which were our partners in establishing the Arab Military Industries Organization withdrew from this organization. This organization was set up to strengthen the defensive capability of the Arab nation in all countries and to increase its ability to confront the challenges which were imposed on it during a very tense period. It is sufficient to cast a quick glance at what is happening in Afghanistan, Iran, the Gulf area, the Arabian peninsula, Southern Yemen and the Horn of Africa and at the fierce dispute over the Sahara in the Arab Maghreb to realize the extent of the danger to which our Arab nation is being exposed amidst these storms and hurricanes.

Despite all this, Egypt neither disavowed its Arabism nor abandoned Arab solidarity because we know that the Arab nation is too strong to be stormed by these narrow-minded actions which do not take the national interests into consideration, and are based on feeble foundations. At best, they are based on erroneous assumptions and misinterpretations which are very similar to the extremist Israeli interpretations stemming from the philosophy of rejecting peace.

On this basis, it was natural for Egypt to reject the transfer of the Arab League's headquarters from Cairo, which will always remain the capital of the Arab homeland, its pulsing heart and cultural facade. We insisted on safeguarding the league's structure and on protecting it from those who wanted to destroy it. We are bent on strengthening the league and on providing it with all it needs to spread its national message. On this occasion, we praise all Arab brothers working at the league and its organization who supported us and rejected all temptations and continued to carry out their great mission. This enabled the league to carry out many aspects of its activities in a manner which the substitute organs that they tried to establish failed to carry out.

Meanwhile, Egypt was anxious to safeguard Arab investments and to open every opportunity for them. It gives me pleasure to declare to the assembly that the Arab investors have responded to us in this respect because they realized the falsehood of the calls emanating from the capitals of the rejectionist states against Egypt and its people. It is sufficient to note that the value of the projects which were financed by Arab capital invested in Egypt up to the end of September amounted to 326 million Egyptian pounds and that the total value of the Arab capital invested up to that time amounted to 2.1 billion pounds. The value of the projects which were offered to Arab investors and agreed upon in the first 9 months of the current year amounted to 273 million pounds, an increase of 110 million pounds over the value of the projects which were agreed upon during the same period in 1978.

I wish to declare here that we welcome our Arab brothers who come here as visitors and investors. They will be here among the relatives and their kin. Egypt will always be a generous and hospitable country which gives the brothers their right and treats them on the basis of principles of loyalty disregarding the calls of the rancorous.

Egypt was also anxious to provide Egyptian expertise to meet the needs of the Arab states disregarding the attitude of their governments. Egypt did this because when the minds and shoulders of the sons of Egypt contribute to the progress of any Arab country, they are actually strengthening the abilities of the entire nation and paying a national tax which we accept willingly and without hesitation. Furthermore, Egypt allies the principle of dealings with fraternal countries because of its interest in their welfare. It differentiates between firm strategic interests and temporary tactical moves which soon change.

Mr Speaker, colleagues: Peace is daily leaving a clear imprint on the land of this proud country, both in strengthening its economic capability and directing it toward the internal building operations with all of its material and spiritual resources to increase the average of growth and development, catch up with the technological advancement and realize the aspirations and stability of the toiling masses, particularly in fields connected directly with their daily life such as food, housing and the raising of the standard of education.

All attempts to destroy the Egyptian will have foundered on the rock of Egyptian determination, as many other attempts have failed throughout our ancient and modern history. These attempts have also increased our determination to continue to work with diligence and to depend on ourselves to increase production, improve the standard of performance in all services and utilities and develop the productive and administrative systems in accordance with the most modern systems of the age. This is the real challenge which differentiates between what benefits the people and what is futile.

The peace we chose is full awareness of the historical responsibility and glorious humanitarian mission of our nation is a creed which we have adopted and will not depart from. It is the practical way to rebuild Egypt on strong foundations befitting the values of this noble people and their unbounded ability to give.

Regarding defense, I will briefly say that this year's defense budget is 10 percent higher than last year's. The army, in view of the challenging situation we will face next year, is a necessity for the country's security and safety. We must develop weapons and increase our combat capability and strengthen over and above the U.S. aid you have recently read about in the press.

This is the budget of the army and the army deserves to be strengthened. In no way does peace mean that the army must be dissolved. Peace requires us to be more vigilant and more attentive to our combat capabilities. The army is our protective shield. We will not in any way sacrifice its combat capability.

Your excellencies have pointed out the armed forces help to the civil sector. This is actually taking place. In accordance with the republican decree of 1979 the army is responsible for establishing national service projects.

As for the armed forces, I pointed out to you that Republican Decree No 32 of 1979 provides for the establishment of a national service body. This body will study and implement projects requested by various ministries, by the authorities, by local authorities and by the public sector companies in implementation of contracts concluded between the two sides. This body is an executive committee for these departments, but it is not a financing body.

As for the Interior Ministry, it is shouldering enormous burdens. It is vigilant day and night to maintain our country's security and safety. [applause]

The domestic front is as important as the foreign policy and external front. Any harm done to the domestic front renders a country unable to defend itself. Every country's domestic front is vulnerable to destruction. In the 1980's no aggression would take place against the external front. An area where there is continuous action to which we call attention is the safety of the domestic front. None of our enemies or those who do not like our policy can launch aggression against us. This is out of the question. Ways in which the domestic front can be harmed are what we must be alert to.

The security organ is shouldering enormous responsibility (everywhere). The security organ is staying up day and night to maintain the security and safety of the state and individuals. It is working to strengthen its training and manpower capabilities. A total of 25 million pounds are allocated from the investments this year compared with 21 million pounds last year.

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EGYPT

GHALI ON BIG DIFFERENCE BETWEEN EGYPTIAN, ISRAELI IDEAS

NC171556 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Autonomy Negotiations Committee, which will hold its seventh session on Wednesday at the MENA House Hotel in Al-Jizah, will discuss ways of surmounting the obstacles standing in the way of a comprehensive peace. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali has stated that there is a big difference between Egypt's idea of autonomy and Israel's idea of autonomy. He said the negotiations must continue. He added that it has been agreed to form a committee to supervise the elections.

Dr Ghali also said he will meet tomorrow with the Israeli Foreign Ministry under secretary to discuss topics related to the normalization of relations between the two countries such as naming the sites of the embassies in the two countries and the number of embassy staff, as well as the setting up of a consulate for each side.

OIL MINISTER REPORTS ON OIL RESERVES, PRODUCTION

NC171401 Cairo MENA in English 1345 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, Dec. 17--Oil Minister Ahmed Izz ad-Din Hilal today said in his statement before the People's Assembly Energy and Industry Committee that international oil companies have made major oil discoveries, namely 22 oil finds up till now, which added to Egypt's old oil reserves about 315 million tons, equaling about 2,200 million barrels, valued at approximately 60,000 million dollars.

Hilal pointed out in his statement that Egypt's global oil output currently amounts to 17 million dollars daily, adding that his ministry's plan envisages that Egypt's local production should cover all the country's needs of the major oil products, with sufficient oil reserves to be kept underground.

The oil minister further said that his ministry is expected to sign with international companies eight new accords for oil prospecting in Sinai and some areas of the western desert.

Hilal pointed out that the deficit between our oil imports and oil exports which existed in 1973-1975 has been changed to a surplus, increasingly going up to reach 1,500 million dollars in 1980.

MINISTER REPORTS TO PEOPLE'S ASSEMBLY ON PROJECTS

NC171248 Cairo MENA in English 1200 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Cairo, Dec 17--Jamal an-Nazir, state minister for economic cooperation and foreign finance, said that the investment authority has agreed on setting up 1,031 projects till the end of last October in the various sectors. The capital of these ventures amount to 2,500 million pounds and ensure work opportunities to 150,000 workers, he added.

In a statement before the People's Assembly, An-Nazir said that 767 ventures are currently executed with a capital of about 1,600 million pounds and with investment costs of 3,600 million pounds. These projects ensure opportunity works to 120,000 during production stages.

The Egyptians contribute about 57 per cent of the total capital, which reflects the citizen's desire to invest capital in domestic projects after they were assured of political and economic stability.

LAST LINE

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EGYPT

CENTRAL AFRICAN FOREIGN MINISTER CONFERS WITH GHALI

NC171217 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1155 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 December--The official discussions between Egypt and Central Africa began at noon today. Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali headed the Egyptian delegation and Second Vice Prime Minister and Foreign Minister Sylvestre Bangui headed the Central African delegation.

The discussions between Egypt and Central Africa lasted about 90 minutes. It has been learned that a review was made of the various international issues which concern both countries, particularly African issues, the racist regimes in the southern part of the African Continent and the various developments in this important area.

The discussions also dealt with the situation in the Middle East, including Egypt's intensive efforts to achieve a just and comprehensive peace in the region, solve the Palestinian question and establish the right of self-determination for the Palestinian people on the basis that the Palestine question is the crux of the Middle East problem.

The discussions also touched upon future African conferences, including the next session of the African foreign ministers council, which is scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa in February and the next Arab summit conference which will convene in Sierra Leone in June.

Holds Press Conference

NC171600 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1480 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Excerpts] Cairo, 17 December--Sylvestre Bangui, Central African Republic second vice prime minister and foreign minister, has said that his talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Dr Butrus Ghali dealt with the aid Egypt can offer to rebuild the Central African Republic.

At a press conference held at the Egyptian Foreign Ministry following his talks, Bangui said the talks had dealt with international organizations and the upcoming meeting of the African foreign ministers in Addis Ababa and the upcoming African summit due to be held in Sierra Leone. Bangui described his talks with Dr Ghali as useful and held in a friendly atmosphere.

Asked about the situation in the Middle East and the efforts Egypt is making, Bangui said Egypt is fighting for peace and in the interest of its people. He said that Egypt wants to regain its territory and rights, adding: We want peace for Egypt and all Africa. On Libya's role and its relations with the CAR, Bangui said that Libya has been playing a negative role. We do not want to raise this subject because the Libyan role has been lowly.

SOUTH AFRICA NATIONAL COUNCIL GROUP MEETS GHALI

NC161630 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 16 DEC 79 NC

[Text] The Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Dr Butrus Ghali, met today with a delegation of the national council of South Africa. During the meeting, developments in South Africa, Namibia and Rhodesia were reviewed.

Mr Ghali affirmed that Egypt is following developments on the African Continent with great interest and that it will continue to extend material and political support to the liberation movements so that they can achieve the legitimate goals of their struggle, rid their countries of racist regimes and achieve true independence embodied by a transfer of power to the majority. The chairman of the national council of South Africa expressed the council's appreciation for Egypt's aid and its prominent historical role in supporting the liberation movements against the racist regime.

OFFICIAL DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH IRAN

NC171317 Paris AFP in English 1310 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Baghdad, Dec 17 (AFP)--Iraq has no intention of becoming involved in military operations against Iran, Iraqi Vice Premier Tariq 'Aziz said here today.

Reports from Tehran of an Iraqi invasion of Iran's western provinces last Friday were "baseless" rumours "propagated by the Tehran authorities to distract people's attentions from Iran's internal difficulties," he added. At the time Iraq would withdraw its charge d'affaires from Tehran if pressure on Iraqi officials in Iran continued, he said.

"The Iraqi position towards Iran is clear. We wish to have good relations with the Islamic government," Mr 'Aziz told a press conference. But the Iranian position was not so clear, he added. "On the one hand its government says it is against imperialism and Zionism. But on the other by adventures such as seizing American hostages in Tehran it gives imperialism and Zionism the chance to achieve their aims and intervene in the region, which could prejudice stability in the Gulf," he said.

"By intervening in internal Arab affairs Iran is also playing the game of imperialism," he added. Mr 'Aziz warned that Iraq would oppose any foreign intervention (?to) ensure the security of the Gulf and Straits of Hormuz through which most of the West's oil must pass. "The Gulf states can and must ensure their own defence," he said.

Mr 'Aziz said Iraq welcomed the proposed revival of European-Arab talks, "necessary for a better understanding of the interests of each party." "But to be successful the Europeans must completely drop their past imperialist attitude and stop their support for Zionism," he warned. He opposed planned talks between Europe and the Gulf states, "to speak to only one section of the Arab nation is an error," he commented.

ULTIMATUM ISSUED TO IRAN ON DETAINED TEACHERS' ISSUE

JN171140 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1138 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 17 December--Hamid 'Alwan, minister of state for foreign affairs, has informed the Iranian charge d'affaires that it is necessary that all the Iraqi teachers and their families who are detained in Iran be released within a maximum period of 48 hours as of 1200 today, local time, 0930 GMT.

The Iranian charge d'affaires was urgently summoned to the Foreign Ministry earlier today and was informed of the Iraqi Government request with regard to the release of the detainees. Hamid 'Alwan warned the Iranian Government that should it fail to respond to its request, then the Iraqi Government will be compelled to withdraw all Iraqi citizens from Iran, including the staff of the Iraqi Embassy and other establishments, in order to protect their security and dignity.

INA Commentator

JN171655 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1615 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 17 December--The INA political commentator writes: Iraq has already warned the Iranian authorities about their repeated aggressions and violations against Iraqi diplomats and the Iraqi community in Iran, undertaken in a way that contravenes international law and norms and violates basic moral values and the principles of good neighborliness.

Instead of respecting the relations of neighborliness and refraining from this method of dealing, the Iranian authorities went to excesses in their aggressive behavior and arrested some members of the Iraqi diplomatic and consular staff. This aggression included the Iraqi schools in Ahvaz and the faculty members. Khomeyni's guards broke into the schools and closed them. They interrogated the teachers and detained some of them in the Al-Intifadah preparatory school in Al-Muhammarah [Khorramshahr]. The fate of five Iraqi teachers is still unknown.

The INA political commentator adds: While drawing attention to the Iranian rulers' conduct, which is illegal and illogical, Iraq affirms that Iran's rulers want to export their domestic problems, crises and contradictions abroad, in view of their inability to solve their economic problems and to put an end to the economic difficulties, unemployment and deterioration of the standard of living from which the Iranian public is suffering. The Iranian rulers have also been unable to tackle the problem of the non-Persian nationalities, thus bringing armed resistance to a head throughout Iran.

The commentator warned the Iranian Government about not responding to the Iraqi warning that was conveyed to the Iranian charge d'affaires today regarding the release of the detained Iraqis. He said: The Iranian authorities are called upon to release the detainees immediately and without delay. Otherwise, they will bear the grave consequences.

EMBASSY IN NEW DELHI DENIES IRAQI ATTACK ON IRAN

BK171717 Hong Kong AFP in English 1715 GMT 17 Dec 79 BK

[Text] New Delhi, 17 Dec (AFP)--The Iraqi Embassy in New Delhi today categorically denied reports that it had attacked Iran. In a press release the embassy said that these reports constituted a "deliberate and false attempt to project Iraq in the eyes of the world public opinion as having links with the imperialist bloc."

PRESS COMMENTS ON IRANIAN REGIME'S 'PROVOCATIVE ACTS'

JN180853 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0755 GMT 18 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 18 December--The dailies ATH-THAWRAH and AL-JUMHURIYAH today strongly attack the Iranian regime and its exposed and provocative acts, which contravene international laws and norms and violate basic moral values.

The two dailies add: In arresting the Iraqi teachers in Ahvaz, interrogating them and attacking their families, the Iranian regime has added a new violation to the series of continued acts of violation committed by the Khomeyni guards against the Iraqi diplomatic missions and cultural and educational establishments.

In its editorial, ATH-THAWRAH says that Iraq is well aware that the abnormal, complicated and weird situation in Iran represents a fertile ground for imperialist interventions to abort the Iranian people's revolution and to use the ruling clique in Iran, which has obscure features and characteristics.

ATH-THAWRAH adds: It is natural for Iraq, which is led by the Ba'th Party and which has distinguished and influential weight in this sensitive and strategic area of the world, to be exposed to the principal portion of the Iranian regime's plots.

AL-JUMHURIYAH says that the Iranian regime's attempts to exploit the chaos and disturbances sweeping the Iranian arena in a manner that would serve its intentions and whet the chauvinist and racist hatred against the revolution in Iraq, confirm the true significance of the trends of the ruling clique in Iran and its affiliation with the imperialist forces and its commitment to the old hostility against the Arab nation.

The paper says that an objective review of the Iranian authorities' policy and acts against the Arab people and Iraqi masses clearly exposes the conspiratorial, reactionary and aggressive scheme being carried out by the ruling authorities in Iran and their role in trying to stop the wheel of the Iraqi march.

In conclusion, AL-JUMHURIYAH reiterates that the Iranian authorities will be disappointed if they think that they can match the solid walls of the revolution.

YUGOSLAV TRADE OFFICIAL LEAVES BAGHDAD 17 DEC

JN171724 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpt] Baghdad, 17 December--Ranko Radulvic, Yugoslav assistant federal secretary for foreign trade, left here for home today following a 4-day visit.

FOUR PERSONS HANGED FOR ACCEPTING BRIBES 16 DEC

JN161856 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1835 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Baghdad, 16 December--Four criminals convicted for contacting certain foreign companies, accepting bribes and divulging classified information to these companies were executed here this morning.

The revolution court sentenced criminals Sa'id Malik al-'Ali, former Irrigation Ministry under secretary; 'Abd al-Halim Najji 'Abd al-Fattah ar-Rawi, chief engineer in the Irrigation Ministry; Qarani Rafiq Tawfiq ad-Dughramaji, owner of an agricultural consultations office; and Nadim Muhammad Tayyib al-Huwayz, businessman, to death by hanging. The court sentenced criminals Ghazi Kamil Mahdi al-Bayyati, lawyer; and Tahir Sulayman Wali ad-Dabbagh, chief of the Legal Department in the Central Statistics Department, to life imprisonment. The court also sequestered the movable and immovable property of the six criminals. The court convicted the six criminals for contacting certain foreign contractors' companies, accepting bribes from them and divulging classified information, by exploiting their official posts, thus preferring personal interests to the homeland's supreme interests.

PRESIDENT HUSAYN ADDRESSES ARAB PEASANTS DELEGATIONS

JN151055 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0935 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Baghdad, 15 December--President Saddam Husayn has said that the roots of Palestine extend to every particle of the Arab homeland soil. The history of Palestine is not isolated to be falsified by the Zionists, he added.

Addressing the Arab and friendly peasants delegations who participated in the sixth Iraqi peasants conference last night, President Saddam Husayn said: The issue of struggle for Palestine cannot be considered a matter solely devoted to the Palestinians alone; rather we believe that when the Palestinians or the Arabs struggle against Zionism they do so in the service of all humanity.

Alluding to the solidarity of all the peace, freedom and independence-loving peoples with the Palestinian people, President Saddam Husayn said the stand of these peoples is a deep humanitarian stand expressing our need to defend the right and to reject falsehood if need be.

President Saddam Husayn added: The martyrdom of the Palestinian fighter reiterates the depth of the Palestinian affiliation with the land not only in defense of his regional land and assertion of his dignity alone, but also an assertion of his pan-Arab character and his noble affiliation with the Arab nation.

Referring to Iraq's independent policy, President Saddam Husayn said it is not inspired by the Iraq's capabilities but by ancient concepts from the long history of the glorious Arab nation. He added: Zionism will continue to serve imperialism and defend its illegitimate interests in this vital area of the world. We, however, will not lose patience and will continue with our firm policy in order to liberate any part of Palestine just as we liberated the individual in Iraq, Yemen, Saudi Arabia and every Arab land. We will also proceed with this policy until the Arabs and the Palestinians, who are defending the right and who are sacrificing their souls in and outside Palestine, have the same concept of martyrdom.

President Saddam Husayn reaffirmed that the Arabs will triumph in their battle despite the depth of the plot and the complications of the situation because they are defending the right and humanity just as they are defending the rights of the Arab nation. President Saddam Husayn explained: We cannot be proud of our struggle and gains unless when we are on the road to liberating Palestine. We will not relinquish this course regardless of the difficulties because if we do so we will be relinquishing our principles, honor and ideologies.

PRESIDENT SARKIS MEETS WITH FIJIAN PRIME MINISTER

NC171300 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] The Fijian prime minister, who arrived in Beirut yesterday, continued his meetings with Lebanese officials today. These meetings dealt with the situation in the south and the Fijian troops' participation in the UNIFIL. At 0900 the Fijian prime minister visited President Ilyas Sarkis and at 1000 he visited speaker Al-As'ad in the presence of Deputy Speaker Munir Abu Fadhil.

After his meeting with Mr al-As'ad, the Fijian prime minister said: I visited speaker Al-As'ad within the framework of my visit to our sons the soldiers who have come to serve with the UNIFIL in the south. Our soldiers are glad to contribute to the cause of peace in the south. Replying to a question, the Fijian prime minister said: I believe that we, along with the United Nations, have a commitment to extend the mandate of our forces until 1982.

CPSU DELEGATION HOLDS TALKS WITH LEBANESE COMMUNIST PARTY

NC171206 Beirut AN-NAHAR in Arabic 14 Dec 79 p 6 NC

[Excerpts] The CPSU delegation led by Karen Brutents, the deputy chief of the CPSU Central Committee International Department, yesterday held a second round of talks with the Lebanese Communist Party leadership.

A statement issued by the Lebanese Communist Party on the talks said that the Soviet delegation "affirmed the interest which the Soviet Union devotes to the developments of the situation in the area and its support for the struggle of the Lebanese people, the communists, and the national movement in confronting Camp David and Israel's aggressions in defense of Lebanon's unity, independence, Arabism, sovereignty, democratic development, and imposition of the legal authority over its territory, and safeguarding the Palestinian resistance and defending it... and considered that the resolutions adopted by the Arab summit in Tunis were positive."

The delegation affirmed "the position announced by the Soviet Union, rejecting the exertion of pressure or any other form of intervention against the Iranian Revolution, and warning against any U.S. military intervention against it." The delegation spoke about "imperialism's obstruction" of the conclusion of the SALT II agreement for limitation of strategic weapons and about "the danger to world peace posed by the deployment of new nuclear missiles in Europe."

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S Y R I A

H 1

VOICE OF LEBANON REPORTS DISTURBANCES IN HAMAH, ALEPPO AREA

NC171328 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1215 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] Events in Syria are assuming frightening dimensions, the Voice of Lebanon correspondents report that (Ku' al-Ma'arrah) area between Hamah and Aleppo is now witnessing an exchange of gunfire and clashes between Syrian intelligence men and Muslim Brotherhood members. Preliminary reports indicate that dozens of persons from both sides have been killed or wounded. The intelligence men are raiding the houses from which the shots are coming. Defense units are besieging the area, which has been isolated. Strict security measures have been adopted to prevent anyone from entering or leaving the area where many citizens have been detained for interrogation. (Ku' al-Ma'arrah) has become an isolated military area. Telephone communications between the area and both Hamah and Aleppo have been cut off.

The Voice of Lebanon correspondents further report that members of the Muslim Brotherhood have distributed leaflets calling upon citizens not to put up decorations for the Christmas and New Year's holidays because of the disturbed security conditions in Aleppo, Homs, Hamah and Al-Kallasah.

In Bab al-Hadid area in northern Syria, a curfew has been imposed as of 1900 hours to insure the public's safety.

Disturbances have broken out in Bab an-Nayrab area in Aleppo over the past 2 days. This compelled the Syrian authorities to deploy helicopters in a parachuting operation to quell these disturbances.

It has been noted that many people are leaving the Syrian cities where there are disturbances for Latakia and Lebanon.

Incidents in Aleppo

NC171832 (Clandestine) Voice of Lebanon in Arabic to Lebanon 1715 GMT 17 Dec 79 NC

[Text] At 2300 last night members of the Muslim Brotherhood laid in armed ambush for a military intelligence vehicle in Al-Hamidiyah street near the Abi al-'Ala' al-Ma'arri high school in Aleppo. The vehicle exploded, wounding a number of its occupants.

Meanwhile, clashes broke out during the military housing establishing elections. Lt Col Sa'd ad-Din and Ahmad Dalilah were killed and 11 persons were wounded. The Syrian intelligence accused groups other than the Muslim Brotherhood whom it called Faith Vanguarders [Tala'i al-Imam]. The Syrian intelligence tried to detain lawyer Khalil al-Kallas, a protege of Akram al-Lawrani, on charges of contacting 'Isam al-'Attar and Akram al-Hawrani in Paris.

BULGARIAN COMMUNIST PARTY DELEGATION CONCLUDES VISIT

Meets Ba'th Official

JN151348 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1245 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Excerpts] Damascus, 15 December--Comrade 'Abdallah al-Ahmar, Ba'th Party assistant secretary general, received Comrade Petur Dyulgerov, Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] Central Committee secretary, with his accompanying delegation at the National Command headquarters this morning. The BCP delegation is currently visiting Syria at the National Command's invitation.

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H 2

SYRIA

The meeting was attended by Comrade Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and foreign relations office director.

Comrade al-Ahmar and the BCP delegation reviewed relations between the two countries and parties and discussed ways of developing these relations in the service of the two peoples' struggle. Comrade al-Ahmar briefed the delegation on the important issues in the Syrian and Arab arenas.

Comrade Petur Dyulgerov praised Syria's achievements, under the Ba'th Party's leadership. He stressed Bulgaria's support and solidarity with Syria, in its legitimate struggle to liberate the Arab territories and to guarantee the rights of the Palestinian people.

The BCP delegation affirmed Bulgaria's support for Syria's confrontation with the imperialist-Zionist-As-Sadat plot. It also denounced attempts by U.S. imperialism to escalate tension in the area.

Sign Cooperation Agreement

JN151325 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1247 GMT 15 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 15 December--The Syrian Ba'th Party and the Bulgarian Communist Party [BCP] signed a party cooperation agreement for the next 2 years at the National Command headquarters today.

The agreement was signed for the Ba'th party by Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, National Command member and director of the foreign relations office, and by Comrade Petur Dyulgerov, BCP Central Committee secretary, for the BCP.

The signing ceremony was attended by the members of the two negotiating teams and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus. Friendly speeches were exchanged at the ceremony. They expressed the depth of friendship and cooperation between the two parties in the service of the two friendly peoples.

President Receives Delegation

JN161423 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1215 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus--At 1030 today, President Hafiz al-Asad received the Bulgarian Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Petur Dyulgerov, the party's Central Committee secretary. The meeting was attended by Comrade Dr Fawwaz Sayyagh, head of the foreign relations office of the Ba'th Party National Command, and Stefan Mitev, the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus.

After being welcomed by the president, the head of the Bulgarian delegation expressed his pleasure with the visit and with the warm reception accorded him and the members of his delegation. He conveyed greetings to the president from President Todor Zhivkov, the Bulgarian Communist Party Central Committee and the Bulgarian people. He also expressed his satisfaction with the friendly atmosphere in which the talks between the Bulgarian Communist Party delegation and the Ba'th Party side were held and with the outcome of the talks, which showed an identity of viewpoints on all matters discussed.

The head of the Bulgarian delegation praised Syria's role as the basis for unifying all progressive forces in the region.

The president and Mr Dyulgerov affirmed their adherence to Syrian-Bulgarian friendship and their determination to increase bilateral cooperation in all fields.

During their review of the Middle East situation, the president expressed his appreciation of Bulgaria's support for the just Arab cause. He also stressed Syria's firm resolve to continue its progressive role in the struggle and to confront the conspiratorial Camp David partners.

The president asked Mr Dyulgerov to convey his greetings and the greetings of the Syrian people to President Zhivkov, the Bulgarian Communist Party leadership and the friendly Bulgarian people.

Delegation Reports

JN161425 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Damascus, 16 December--The Bulgarian Communist Party delegation led by Comrade Petur Dyulgerov, the party's Central Committee secretary, left Damascus today at the end of a 5-day visit to Syria, which came at the invitation of the Ba'th Party National Command.

The delegation was seen off at Damascus international airport by Comrade Ahmad al-Hasan, regional command member and head of the Ba'th Party's organizational office; the head and members of the party's Foreign Relations Office; and the Bulgarian ambassador in Damascus and his embassy staff.

In a statement to SANA, Comrade Dyulgerov said he and the members of his delegation are pleased with the visit and with the meetings they had with their fellow comrades in the party national and regional commands, as well as in the popular organizations.

Comrade Dyulgerov added: Our viewpoints were completely identical on all matters discussed. We also signed a protocol for cooperation between the two parties over the next 2 years. This protocol clearly indicates an expansion of the relations between our two parties, in the common interest of our two friendly peoples.

Comrade Dyulgerov continued: Our viewpoints were also identical on the Middle East question and on the plots being hatched by the Camp David partners against the Arab nation, particularly Syria, which is in the forefront in the confrontation against imperialism and Zionism.

He said: We stressed the need to continue the struggle to topple the Camp David plot, which maintains Zionist occupation of Arab territory and ignores the Palestinian people's legitimate national rights, especially their right to establish their independent state on their national Palestinian soil.

Comrade Dyulgerov praised the role that Syria plays, saying: We appreciate the great role that Syria is playing, under the leadership of president Hafiz al-Asad, and the heroic and firm stands that it adopts on all Arab and international issues.

Comrade Dyulgerov concluded his statement by thanking comrade Hafiz al-Asad, the secretary general of the Ba'th Party and president of the republic, and the comrade members of the party national and regional commands for the hospitality and welcome accorded him and the members of his delegation.

A joint statement on the results of the visit will be released in Damascus and Sofia tomorrow.

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NORTH AFRICA

I 1

ALGERIA

ALGERIAN-CONGOLESE COOPERATION TALKS RESUME

ID171430 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 17 Dec 79 ID

[Excerpts] At the presidency this morning the Algerian-Congolese political talks were resumed under the chairmanship of President Chadli Bendjedid, president of the republic and general secretary of the party, and President Denis Sassou-Nguesso, president of the Congolese Labor Party Central Committee and president of the People's Republic of the Congo.

A review of relations between the two countries and the possibility of developing them were studied at the meeting. Additionally, Congolese ministers are to have a meeting with Algerian counterparts on practical measures to realize fruitful cooperation in the interests of both countries and for the well-being of both peoples.

CONGO PRESIDENT NGUESSO ARRIVES FOR VISIT

AB171430 Brazzaville Domestic Service in French 1245 GMT 17 Dec 79 AB

[Excerpts] The chairman of the Central Committee of the Congolese Labor Party and president of the republic, Comrade Denis Sassou-Nguesso, yesterday arrived in Algeria on a 3-day official visit. This visit, which falls within the framework of our international policy, will afford the Congolese head of state and his Algerian counterpart, Chadli Bendjedid, an opportunity to examine the cooperation between their two countries and to analyze the international situation. The head of state, who is accompanied by his wife, Comrade Antoinette Sassou-Nguesso, made a stopover in Niamey, capital of the Republic of Niger, where he had a short discussion with President Seyni Kountche.

There is no doubt that Presidents Denis Sassou-Nguesso and Chadli Bendjedid discussed political problems yesterday evening. We are sure that the two presidents reviewed current issues including Zimbabwe and Namibia; in short, the problems of southern Africa in general, those of Western Sahara as well as the Middle East conflict. The two presidents this morning discussed bilateral problems including cooperation between their two countries.

LIBYA

IRANIAN CENTRAL BANK PRESIDENT ARRIVES 16 DEC

ID161816 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1730 GMT 16 Dec 79 ID

[Text] Tripoli, 16 December--The president of the Iranian Central Bank arrived in Tripoli this evening on a visit to Libya. The visit is designed to strengthen fraternal cooperation relations between the two Muslim peoples. He was welcomed at Tripoli international airport by the governor of the Central Bank of Libya and a representative of the Protocol Section of the Foreign Secretariat.

OPENING OF LIBYA-USSR ECONOMIC SESSION REPORTED

ID171840 Tripoli JANA in English 1635 GMT 17 Dec 79 ID

[Text] Tripoli, December 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The fifth session of the Libyan Arab-Soviet Committee for Economic, Commercial, Educational and Technical Cooperation commenced today at the Foreign Secretariat in Tripoli.

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Foreign secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity, engineer Jum'a al-Arbash, delivered an opening speech in which he welcomed the members of the Soviet delegation and pointed to the achievements of continued bilateral cooperation in the various fields. The present session, he said, will undoubtedly play a major role in developing the existing cooperation.

The vice chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations and head of the Soviet delegation praised the achievements attained by the Great September Revolution. He cited the fruitful and continued cooperation between the two countries to be indicative of the good relations that tie their respective peoples.

He said, "The desire by both sides to develop this cooperation will have a great effect in finding new ways for strengthening and developing it."

Several subcommittees were formed to study and research this bilateral cooperation.

ELECTRICITY MINISTER RECEIVES SOVIET DELEGATION HEAD

ID171844 Tripoli JANA in English 1639 GMT 17 Dec 79 ID

[Text] Tripoli, December 17, JAMAHIRIYAH NEWS AGENCY--The secretary of the General People's Committee for Electricity, Eng Jum'a al-Arbash, received, in his office this morning, Mr V. Mordvinov, the deputy chairman of the Soviet State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who arrived in Tripoli this morning on a visit to the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriya.

The meeting reviewed bilateral cooperation and relations in the economic fields.

MOROCCO

LIBERIAN FOREIGN MINISTER ARRIVES ON OAU MISSION

AB171948 Monrovia Radio ELWA in English 1755 GMT 17 Dec 79 AB

[Text] Foreign Minister Cecil Dennis is in Morocco on a special OAU mission. He and OAU Secretary General Edem Kojo are expected to consult with King Hassan II on the recent meeting of the OAU ad hoc committee in Monrovia on Western Sahara. The special mission is in keeping with the mandate of the ad hoc committee on Western Sahara. While Minister Dennis is away from Liberia, deputy minister of foreign affairs for administration [name indistinct] will serve as acting minister of foreign affairs.

PLO OFFICIAL MEETS WITH KING HASSAN, DEPARTS

ID161244 Rabat MAP in Arabic 0900 GMT 16 Dec 79 ID

[Text] Rabat, 16 December, MAP--Khalid al-Hassan, member of the PLO Central Committee, left Morocco this morning after a visit during which he was received by His Majesty King Hassan II. He also took part in the ideological dialog seminar on Zionist strategy and the Middle East which was held in Rabat.

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SUDAN

COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEET UNDER PRESIDENT NUMAYRI

JN161721 Khartoum SUNA in English 1715 GMT 16 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, Dec 16, (SUNA)--The Sudanese Council of Ministers, chaired by President Ja'far Numayri, held its ordinary 25th meeting at the cabinet presidency this morning.

The council listened to a statement by First Vice President Lt Gen 'Abd al-Majid Hamid Khalil, on his recent visit to the People's Republic of China.

In his statement, General Khalil, who also doubles as defense minister, spoke of the good relations between Sudan and the People's Republic of China.

Finance and economy minister presented to the meeting a bill on encouragement and protection of investment. The bill would unify all laws on investment.

Two memorandums on the 1979 Dutch aid and an agreement on mutual recognition of higher education certificates issued by Arab countries were also discussed by the council.

SIX SUDANESE BA'THISTS TO BE TRIED 20 DEC

JN171433 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1410 GMT 17 Dec 79 JN

[Text] Khartoum, 17 December--The state security court will convene in the city of (Nyala), the capital of southern Darfur, west of Sudan, on 20 December to try six persons accused of being members of the banned Ba'th Party. They are accused of running and organizing banned party activities in the south Darfur Province and of encouraging others to join the banned Ba'th Party.

Security authorities seized leaflets, organization documents and information on a planned attack against the legitimate authority in Sudan when these members were arrested.

TUNISIA

DESTOURIAN OFFICIAL WARNS CADRES OF RELIGIOUS FANATICS

ID142106 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1900 GMT 14 Dec 79 ID

[Text] Mahmoud Charehour, Destourian Socialist Party assistant director, yesterday evening presided over a meeting of party cadres at the party coordination premises.

Charehour delivered a speech in which he spoke at length of the actions taken by the party since its birth in the 1930's, under the leadership of Habib Bourguiba, in support of Islam and to protect it from dissolution, and from the numerous attempts by the colonialists to destroy the Tunisian entity and identity and to desecrate our sanctities. He cited in this regard the resistance put up by the party and the Destourians and their firm stand during the convocation of [word indistinct] conference in Tunis and against the campaign of distortion.

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Charchour pointed out that the party is a school for enlightenment. It shows the way to better things. It always works for the good, glory and progress of Tunisia, guided by Habib Bourguiba. He enumerated the services rendered by the Bourguiba regime to bolster Islam throughout the country, out of its conviction that Islam is a religion of civilization and openness which works to enlighten people and enable them to discriminate between what is good and what is bad.

Mahmoud Charchour noted that the phenomenon which recently appeared in the country has no connection with religion. There is a group of people, some of whom are communists, who disguise themselves behind religion to attain political goals. They use religious matters, both simple and important, to serve their political ends.

In this regard, Charchour called on the cadres to always be on the alert. He warned them of the consequences of religious fanaticism which kills the power of thinking in man, particularly as Islam urges the Muslims to express their opinions in all matters affecting their lives.

WESTERN SAHARA

ALGIERS CITES PRELA INTERVIEW WITH POLISARIO DEPUTY CHIEF

ID151431 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Dec 79 ID

[Text] Bashir Mustafa as-Sayyid, assistant secretary general of the POLISARIO Front, confirmed in a statement to the Cuban news agency that the recent talks conducted with Mohamed Abdul Aziz, POLISARIO secretary general, with the heads of state of Togo, Niger and Benin were very fruitful. He added that the Saharan Democratic Arab Republic will definitely join the OAU before the next summit conference. He also praised the results of the meeting of the African committee on the Western Sahara in Monrovia and condemned the absence of King Hassan II, which proved the total inability of the King of Morocco to participate in a political solution of the conflict.

Moreover, Mustafa as-Sayyid spoke on the military situation in the Western Sahara and said in particular on the capabilities of the Saharan Popular Liberation Army that the POLISARIO is able to wage a war deep into Moroccan territory. He said that this is not hollow talk; proof is the result of the recent damage caused to the Royalist Air Force. He condemned in this context the military support which Rabat receives from the United States, France and Egypt, which he considers a hindrance to the efforts aimed at achieving a political solution. He said that the POLISARIO is willing to work for such a solution on the condition of respect for Saharan integrity and independence.

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I S R A E L

N 1

ABORTION AMENDMENT BILL PASSED BY KNESSET 17 DEC

TA171506 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1500 GMT 17 Dec 79 TA

[Excerpt] Clause No 5 in the abortion law will be deleted. Fifty-eight Knesset members voted a short while ago in favor of the amendment of the law. Fifty-three voted against. The bill was adopted by a majority of five votes in the first reading.

Further Details

TA171611 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Dec 79 TA

[Text] There have been no surprises. The Coalition collected 58 votes, the opposition only 53. Our Knesset correspondent Asher Fish, good evening to you. Who voted, and how?

[Fish--live] As you said before, Avi, there were no stupendous surprises during the vote today. The Knesset members voted almost according to what we could predict with certainty in advance. The refuseniks in the Liberal Party voted for the deletion of the social clause. Knesset Members Hillel Seidel, Yosef Tamir and Yitzhaq Yitzhaqi of the Likud were not present in the plenary hall during the vote. In the Democratic Party, MK Shafiq As'ad voted for the amendment; MK 'Aqiva Nof was absent during the vote, whereas other democratic Knesset members, including Ministers Yadin and Tamir, voted against the amendment. MK Asaf Yaguri was also absent.

In the Alinemet, all the Knesset members voted against the amendment, except for Rabbi Menahem Hakohen, who abstained. Knesset Members Ge'ula Kohen and Moshe Shamir were present at the vote, but they declared that they would not take part in it. MK Flatto-Sharon abstained.

During the vote, the plenary hall, the press and public balconies were full to utmost capacity. The bill was passed in its first reading; within a day or two it will be resubmitted to the Knesset for a vote in the second and third readings, after it is prepared in the committee for this purpose. Within a few days the social clause in the abortion law will be deleted and the crisis that threatened the Coalition will come to an end.

Agudat Yisra'el Reaction

TA171703 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1510 GMT 17 Dec 79 TA

[Excerpts] Agudat Yisra'el faction Chairman MK Rabbi Shlomo Lorincz is satisfied with the annulment of the social clause. This annulment terminates Agudat Yisra'el's threat to withdraw from the Coalition. Our correspondent Rafi Reshef talks with Rabbi Lorincz.
[begin recording]

[Lorincz] Finally we lived to see the hour where straight sense and Jewish morality are victorious. And thus we hope that this bill will soon--I hope next week--also be approved in the second and third readings.

[Question] Does this actually secure Agudat Yisra'el's continuous support of the Coalition?

[Answer] Yes. This confirmed what the prime minister keeps maintaining all the time, that a Coalition agreement that had been signed by him and by the Coalition members will be honored, even if this involves difficulties. And we hope that the other issues will also be resolved.
[end recording]

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'AL HAMISHMAR ON BEGIN'S 'INABILITY TO FUNCTION'

TA141324 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 14 Dec 79 p 4 TA

[Dalya Shehori article: "The Prime Minister Cannot Help"]

[Text] The line of volunteers filing past Begin last week to express their support of him in the face of the calumnies regarding his state of health expressed by Dr (though not of medicine) Yisra'el Peled, the mayor of Ramat Gan, was only interrupted by Mr Begin's actual state of health. While they were still loudly extolling his fit condition and ability to rule, he himself was involved in an embarrassing incident in the Knesset, when he absentmindedly took his seat in Labor Party Chairman (and opposition leader) Shim'on Peres' chair, from which he got up only to sit down in the chair generally occupied by Yig'al Allon, until an usher finally led him to his own seat on the government bench.

The convenient thing to do would be to ignore the whole incident. But journalists cannot do that, because Mr Begin is no mere private individual, but the prime minister. Besides, there is a feeling that the public has no knowledge of the real state of the prime minister's health, and it is the duty of the press to point this out. His physicians tell us miraculous tales of his condition and performance, as do the members of his office. But people close to him who take a practical approach to the matter realize that he is, to say the least, functioning more slowly, if not differently, than before.

What more do we need than the statement made by Deputy Prime Minister and veteran politician Simha Ehrlich to know all about Mr Begin's condition: "I told him that as far as I am concerned he is the prime minister for as long as he wants to be," Ehrlich stated to the media last week after visiting Begin. In the same breath he mentioned "the successor": "Only if Begin retires one of these days, Weizman will be the candidate of my choice," he said. This was the first time that 'Ezer Weizman's name was mentioned as the next Likud prime minister openly and almost officially; and this at a time when Begin is still in office and Ehrlich is his deputy and friend and colleague in the Likud leadership. If this is not an admission that Begin's rule is at an end, then who knows what is.

After each wave of rumors about his health Begin makes renewed efforts (and these become increasingly difficult each time) to demonstrate his good health for all to see. But he is not fooling anybody and only causing himself suffering. When the Likud Knesset faction met this week to demonstrate its closed ranks and its solid support of him, only 20 out of 45 MK's in the faction arrived for the meeting, including only one Cabinet minister (a liberal--Moshe Nissim), and even those 20 gradually dwindled in number as people began to steal out of the room. This testimony was stronger than any declaration in indicating how Begin's party really feels about his state of health. This is not how people behave toward a prime minister in possession of his health and strength, with the power to make or break others.

The factor that really knows how to exploit Begin's shaky state of health to the hilt is Gush Emunim. After the Cabinet had devoted practically its entire series of meetings to Elon More in the last 2 months, Benny Katzover was still capable of getting up last Sunday to declare that the settlers would not move to Jabal al-Kabir because the Cabinet has not fulfilled the condition the gush had raised in this connection. Eventually the "sides" reached an understanding, and that is the surprising part about the contacts between the "Emunim government" and the "Begin gush" as MK Sarid called them in the Knesset this week.

The country was in an uproar this week over the size of the arms deal between the United States and Egypt.

This may be an unavoidable deal and maybe it is not all that worrying from Israel's point of view. But nobody came out and said so, because the prime minister is not making any statements at all to the media, and the defense minister was apparently not interested in saying anything for reasons of his own. But the Cabinet did not discuss the matter either; presumably because Begin and Weizman agree that the subject should not be blown up to major proportions. Still, if the Cabinet is not the forum to which delicate matters should be submitted, this means that a whole series of issues cannot be discussed at all in a democratic and orderly manner.

This also applies to matters that come under the Foreign Ministry, even if only technically, since there is no minister here to present this ministry's problems to the Cabinet. This week the prime minister finally paid his first visit to the Foreign Ministry since he took over the foreign minister's post after Dayan resigned. In the Knesset the atmosphere regarding this portfolio is one of taking part in a lottery, with people alternating between making light of the matter and trying to make the most of the general confusion. A generally knowledgeable source told the writer, with regard to the candidacy of Foreign Affairs and Security Committee Chairman Moshe Arens, that she, Dalya Shehori, had better chances of being made foreign minister than Arens had. As for Abramov (the liberal MK) his source said that in his view the liberals would not be given another ministry, and instead Begin would wait for Yadin to resign (for some reason people are talking of this as though it were already a fait accompli), and then Shmuel Tamir would be appointed foreign minister and Moshe Nissim would be made minister of justice. Possibly, but there is no escaping the feeling that none of this will make any difference.

The autonomy discussions are limping along, and at each session somebody else has a good reason for postponing the point where the talks reach the important stage. Israel has meanwhile found a gimmick which will no doubt prove very useful in the time still left until the autonomy talks are due to be completed: lectures. The working groups that met in Tel Aviv two weeks ago were presented with lectures on the military government and on the way its powers in the West Bank are being implemented. "It was most instructive," said one of the American participants, and it was difficult to decide whether he said it with his tongue in his cheek or whether he really meant it. "Naturally this will prove most useful to us in the talks, provided the situation we have just heard described is a point of departure and not an end to Israel's position," he immediately added.

The autonomy talks are still being held without the defense minister, who is at present preoccupied with the criticism leveled by the IDF leadership against the Tal plan. In an orderly government Ezer Weizman would have been able to expect the public support of his prime minister for implementing so fundamental a plan to change the IDF structure. But the prime minister is not capable of extending a helping hand nowadays, and in this affair what happened was the opposite of what should have happened: The public knows next to nothing of the widespread support with which Weizman's and the chief of staff's decision was acclaimed by the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, because this committee's talks are classified. On the other hand, a great deal has been revealed about the criticism of this plan voiced by the top brass in the IDF, which is caused by standards of politization and "wars of the generals" that began in the IDF during the Yom Kippur War and have apparently become the norm in the meantime.

The prime minister is incapable of remedying matters. This week he raised his hand--during the vote on the motion regarding the "flower crisis" [decline in Israel's flower exports]--first for the agriculture minister and later for the Likud and Alignment factions, against Sharon.

This week Begin voted against the government, against himself, if you like; these days ministers are circling like planets devoid of gravity. They are all waiting, just like in Samuel Beckett's play.

CIECHANOVER APPOINT TO 7TH ROUND OF AUTONOMY TALKS

TA180643 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 0500 GMT 18 Dec 79 TA

[Text] The ministerial committee discussing autonomy in the territories today begins another round of talks in Cairo. Our political reporter says that the latest session--the seventh in the series--will be a brief one, devoted to suggestions and instructions to the working groups. These instructions will concern the formulation by the Egyptian and Israeli groups of a model for the autonomy. The full delegations of the negotiating teams will then finalize election procedures for the autonomy institutions.

At a meeting of the Israeli ministerial committee last night, Prime Minister Begin announced that Foreign Ministry Director General Yosef Ciechanover will join the team as a permanent member. His place was made available by the resignation of former Foreign Minister Moshe Dayan. Ciechanover will be going to Cairo with the team today and is to have talks with Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Butrus Ghali on normalization issues.

BURG REACTS TO 15 DEC KHALIL STATEMENT

TA161923 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 16 Dec 79 TA

[Text] Khalil warned of serious consequences, should negotiations on the proposed autonomy for the West Bank and Gaza fail. This evening, reporter David Essing asked Dr Burg for his reaction to the Khalil statement. [begin recording]

[Burg] My reaction is that threatening has no value. I will say to the prime minister, whom I held [past tense as heard] in very high esteem, that it is not good for the atmosphere of negotiations to come out with something that can be understood or interpreted as threatening. I believe that he knows our sincere wish to make progress in the negotiation talks; I am happy to report that the special Ambassador Sol Linowitz was also impressed--and he told it to me--he said he is impressed by both personalities involved; that means Prime Minister Khalil and I, and I believe that we can carry on with our negotiations without creating, artificially or nonartificially, an atmosphere of serious consequences if this and this and this will not come out.

[Question] One of the objects of this round is a discussion of a model for the powers and responsibilities of the administrative council in Judaea, Samaria and the Gaza Strip. Khalil has also said that this administrative council should have all the powers and responsibilities that Israel now has or the military government now has. What do you feel about this?

[Answer] I believe him that this is his opinion. But we made it very clear that not all the powers of the military government will be transferred and the powers that will be transferred will not be automatically transferred. I believe this is one of the issues of our negotiations. What powers, what responsibilities, when and so on and so on. But that is not an automat [as heard]; this has to be an outcome of negotiations.

[Question] And what do you envisage for this kind of model for the powers and responsibilities for the council?

[Answer] I can imagine three levels: One level where, without any problems, authority could be handed over to the self-governing authority administrative council; then something that has to be always together, the Arabs of the region and we together, like, let me say, water questions and so on and so on; third, where nothing can be transferred, that is the question of security: internal security and military defense installations and so on, where nobody can be a partner, because it's our lives. [end recording]

DAVAR ON U.S. ARMS DEALS, IRAN CRISIS

TA171217 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 17 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[By Daniyel Bloch]

[Excerpt] It is estimated in Jerusalem that if the United States increases the economic aid to Israel and satisfies the major procurement requests submitted by the security establishment, this will balance the massive arms supply to Egypt and Saudi Arabia.

Political and security elements believe that Israel should handle this issue on the diplomatic level and not raise a cry or involve high-ranking personages at this stage.

It is also assessed in Jerusalem that following the Iranian events Israel's status in the United States has strengthened as has the idea of an Israeli-Egyptian axis being a stabilizing element in the Middle East. The events in Iran, with all their implications, will alleviate the anti-Israel pressure on the PLO issue.

It has been noted in Jerusalem that the United States was opposed to Egypt giving asylum to the shah so that As-Sadat's position would not be undermined. The assessment today is that the Egyptian regime is rather stable, and the most shaky regime in the Middle East is that of Al-Asad in Syria.

It is further believed in Jerusalem that the United States has exhausted all diplomatic possibilities and is now considering other measures. Following the U.S. military alert in the region the Soviet Union has also stepped up its maritime presence in the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean.

CABINET SECRETARY ON CONDITIONS OF ELON MORE RESETTLEMENTS

TA141036 Jerusalem POST in English 14 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[By David Landau]

[Excerpt] If the Elon More settlers do not evacuate their present site willingly, and have to be forcibly removed, they will forfeit the right to be resettled at Jabal al-Kabir. This, according to Cabinet Secretary Arye Na'or, was the meaning and intention of the Cabinet decision four weeks ago which linked the building of a new settlement at Jabal al-Kabir to the voluntary evacuation of Elon More.

In an interview yesterday, Na'or said that for the settlers to be forcibly removed, and then to be rehoused at Jabal al-Kabir "would contradict the Cabinet's decision." He said in that eventuality Al-Kabir might be turned over to a different settlement group.

Na'or insisted, though, that forcible removal was only a hypothetical possibility, because the settlers "keep sending messages to Prime Minister Begin that they will leave voluntarily." Their public statements to the contrary, said Na'or, seemed designed to create the (erroneous) impression that their leaving Elon More is conditional upon the Cabinet's debating the legal status of Judea and Samaria settlement as a whole.

Na'or accused certain persons of "stirring things up, exploiting the sincere idealism of the settlers for political purposes, and in order to undermine the government's authority." "Idealistic groups, genuinely ready to make sacrifices, are always easy targets for incitement," he said. "I am barred by the office I hold," Na'or said, "from commenting upon internal politics" and identifying those who he believes are exploiting the settlers ardor.

PROCESSION COMMEMORATING DEAD TERRORIST DISPERSED

TA181016 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 18 Dec 79 TA

[Text] This morning the military government dispersed a funeral procession held by Halhul inhabitants in memory of terrorist Ibrahim 'Abd al-'Aziz Brarit, alias Abu Safwat, who was killed in Cyprus. About 1,000 people gathered this morning in Halhul and began walking toward the village of Bayt Immar, where the victim was born. The procession became violent and stones were hurled at Israeli cars. The military government dispersed the demonstration using tear gas and firing in the air. These details are reported by our correspondent Arye Gus.

Yesterday, East Jerusalem newspapers published the obituaries of the two terrorists killed in Cyprus, saying that they died a heroic death for the Palestinian cause. Among the people who published these obituaries are some Judaea and Samaria mayors, including Nabulus Mayor Bassam ash-Shak'ah and Bethlehem Mayor Ilyas Frayj. Terrorist Abu Safwat, who was described as the person in charge of terrorist activity in Judaea and Samaria, was a teacher in the village of Al-Khidr near Solomon's pools for a long time.

GAZA CITRUS GROWERS ASK PLO HELP IN EXPORTING TO IRAN

TA161243 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 16 Dec 79 p 1 TA

[By Dani Tzidqoni]

[Excerpts] The crisis recently encountered by citrus growers in the Gaza Strip has moved the farmers to ask the PLO and several Arab countries for assistance.

In the last few years, Iran had been the main customer for Gaza citrus produce (about 80,000 tons) for which it paid good prices. Thus, the impetus for citrus growing was reinforced. Now that the Iranian market has been closed the farmers have been dealt a heavy blow. The PLO is ready to offer its assistance in dealing with the Iranians. However, due to the situation in Iran, the PLO has encountered difficulties in fulfilling the mission.

In the wake of the grave crisis caused by natural disasters and marketing difficulties, Joint Citrus Growers Union Chairman Hashim 'Ata ash-Shawwa has also appealed to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn on this issue. The Gaza Strip citrus growers expect the Arab countries to replace the Iranians and help them overcome the crisis. Gaza Mayor Rashad ash-Shawwa is leaving for several Arab countries in the next few days to discuss the issue as well.

Obviously, the Gaza Strip citrus growers could also sell their produce through [the Israeli] council for citrus marketing. However, they are not interested in doing so because of the difficult conditions imposed by the council.

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S O U T H A S I A

S 1

TEXT

AFGHANISTAN

AMIN DISCUSSES RELATIONS WITH ARAB WORLD

ID171344 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 16 Dec 79 ID

[Interview given by Hafizollah Amin, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, to ('Adel Bostani), reporter of the London newspaper ASH-SHARQ AL-AWSAT on 12 December]

[Text] Initially, Comrade Amin expressed pleasure at being interviewed by the reporter and said that revolutionary Afghanistan is interested in the Arab people. He said Afghanistan, even more than the Arab countries, is supporting the struggles of the Palestinian and Arab people diplomatically, whether in the Middle East or in the international arena, which includes the United Nations. Comrade Amin added that this support represents the wishes of our people, who are paying special attention to the cause of the Palestinians and the Arab people. [begin recording]

[Question] From the beginning of revolution you have been sincerely welcoming journalists from all parts of the world to Afghanistan and inviting them to talk to you. Is this correct?

[Answer] Yes. If this were not true you would not be here.

[Question] Are you sure about the future?

[Answer] Obviously I am sure. We are optimistic about the future. Any government that is in accordance with the working class ideology is certain of the future, and we are hopeful and optimistic about our future.

[Question] So, in your view of the future, what are your difficulties and how do you view the future?

[Answer] The aim of all our activities is the establishment of a socialist society in Afghanistan. Our main difficulty is with the international enemies of socialism: imperialism, reaction and leftwing [word indistinct]. These are the forces that have been creating obstacles for any country that decides on a socialist course. [Words indistinct] they interfere in our internal affairs, help the antirevolutionaries and protect our enemies. We [words indistinct] with a backward country based on feudal values. Therefore, all the signs of feudalism [are at] work. The difficulties that we have in this respect are not peculiar to us but are common to other countries in the same predicament.

[Question] (?What evidence) do you have that certain circles in the Arab countries such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and the UAE and perhaps Egypt itself [as heard] are interfering in your internal affairs? Could you further explain this?

[Answer] You cannot deny that these countries are making such propaganda against our revolution. Certain newspapers are publishing (?false) news about the situation in our country, and help is being given in these countries to the antirevolutionary elements in Afghanistan. You might have heard such topics from some Western radios like the BBC, VOA, Voice of West Germany, Radio Tehran, Radio Pakistan and Radio Beijing.

[Question] Do not you think that from the beginning the people of the Arab countries may not have properly understood the merit and meaning of your revolution?

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[Answer] Not at all. The toiling people of the Arab countries have not asked about the merit or (?success) of our revolution. However, whatever they feel or sense, they are our brothers. Imperialists and reactionaries are not telling our brothers the truth. [Words indistinct] we hope these Arab brothers of ours will[word indistinct] and realize the importance of our revolution. [Words indistinct] we will do our utmost to clear up misunderstandings with the governments of these Arab countries.

[Question] You have mentioned financial help to the antirevolutionaries. In addition to the Arab countries you have also mentioned the United States and China. Can you explain this further?

[Answer] All our information is based on the propaganda of the United States, England, West Germany, Pakistan, Iran, China and Egypt. These are the ones who help our anti-revolutionaries. [passage indistinct]

[Question] Have you given them a good thrashing?

[Answer] [Passage indistinct] when they kill 1 person, they say they have killed 100 persons. When they attack one area, imperialists say they have occupied one region. We do not have many problems from these quarters, for their work is in deceiving the people. There are certain persons who have been deceived by our enemies. There are certain others who in reality are (?against us). They have lost their values and have gone to foreign countries and are being helped and protected there. But some others who have been deceived (?spread the rumor) that hundreds of people have been killed in Kabul. [passage indistinct]

We are waiting for Agha Shahi, the Pakistani president's foreign affairs consultant, to come to Afghanistan on the basis of the invitation from the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan's Foreign Ministry, and then for His Excellency Ziaul Haq, the president of Pakistan, to come to Afghanistan. The people of Afghanistan will welcome them warmly. We want to have friendly relations with (?that) country and solve all problems and misunderstandings through peaceful talks [words indistinct]. Nothing has happened in Afghanistan that will cause any person to leave his country. Our country is open to all those who have been deceived. But there are exploiter oppressors and criminals (?among them) who swallowed the riches of this country before the revolution and went to Pakistan. We will tell His Excellency Ziaul Haq not to protect these people on Pakistani soil, for protecting them is protecting (?criminals).

[Question] Is it true that their number exceeds more than 300,000? (?What is your explanation)?

[Answer] They are not refugees but have been called refugees. [passage indistinct]
[end recording]

AMIN ADDRESSES EDUCATION LEADERS IN KABUL

ID161600 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1630 GMT 15 Dec 79 LD

[Speech by Hafizollah Amin, president of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan [DRA], to principals of training and education institutions of the capital and provinces at Golkhanah Palace in Kabul on 15 December--recorded]

[Excerpts] You have the responsibility of advancing the cultural revolution in Afghanistan. The cultural revolution cannot succeed without your active and revolutionary participation. The greatest and most important part of the workers revolution is the cultural revolution, which can succeed with your active participation. You nurture the spirit of revolution in the minds of all our toiling people from childhood to adult-

Today, a workers revolution has taken root in Afghanistan. You are in the forefront of the epoch creating an ideology of the working class, training the young generation, the future generation and training the elders of our country. This reflects the wishes of the lofty aims of the Sawr revolution and the aims of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan [PDPA].

Anyone who is working with you or under you must be of the same mind as you. He must work with you wholeheartedly for the extension of the revolutionary aims of the PDPA and the lofty objects of the Sawr revolution. If under your guidance one of your colleagues does not agree with your views and does not participate in achieving the aims of the Sawr revolution, which are the wishes of the PDPA, he may be allowed to work in other organs and in other parts of the DRA Government. There is no room for such people in the training and education movement. I hope you will all pay very careful attention to this. You have the authority to dismiss any person who agrees with the aims of the Sawr revolution but is not taking an active part in achieving the lofty aims of the Sawr revolution and the PDPA. Such a person can be introduced to other organs of the government where he can work. That is to say, anyone who works in the training and education movement under your leadership must agree with all aims of the PDPA, with all the wishes of the Sawr revolution, and in achieving them must work with you side by side, shoulder to shoulder with honesty and freedom.

In Afghanistan today, workers and peasants are united. Our workers have honest co-operation of all kinds with our peasants. We put our workers at the service of our toiling peasants. That is why our working movement is based on the unity of workers and peasants. [applause] All those under the light of your training should be told that the wishes of workers and peasants and other toilers can be achieved through the activities of approved organizations. Train all those under you such that they not only perform their activities in a revolutionary manner but also through established organizations. My hope is that your pupils will join the youth and other movements with love and affection so they can take part in the ranks of the youth movements in full awareness.

You leaders of the cultural revolution should not withhold whatever assistance you can give to guide your countrymen. We only allow one individual, social and organizational approach, and that must be aimed at advancing the workers revolution. Activity aimed at toppling the workers government of Afghanistan is the enemy of the toilers, the enemy of the people. The DRA Government will resolutely put an end to it.

Those who try to (?establish) a separate party apart from the PDPA are trying to topple the government, for the object of a party is to achieve political power. Political power is now with the working class of the country who are defending the interest of our toilers. Anyone who is bringing about a new party is against the interest of our toiling people. Your DRA Government is strongly against any other party, apart from the workers party, the PDPA. To conspire to establish another party apart from the PDPA is perfidy to the people, the country and all toilers and will be investigated and (?dealt with accordingly).

Therefore, you must tell all toilers, and especially your dear pupils, that today the workers government of the country is defending all the interests of the toilers and is struggling to establish a society without exploitation of man by man. Anyone who is conspiring against it is a national traitor and must be made known to the relevant authorities for elimination, or he should be made known to you so that you can bring him to the attention of the security authority.

Our aim as we have shown so far is peace in the region and in the world. We do not permit war propaganda in Afghanistan. We who defend our country and the revolution with arms have the defense of peace in mind. The defense of international peace is our main objective. I hope all those who are under your guidance will (realize that our desire) for peace in the region and the world is our main aim.

War never coincides with our aims. As I have said before, if we have to fight a war it will be for the sake of the defense of peace. [applause] We wage war always to eliminate war. We have great respect for human rights. I expect you, colleagues and friends, to educate all your pupils and all those who are connected to you with great and extensive respect for human rights.

We are in the ranks of all socialist and workers countries. We have no relations with imperialism and will always have (a place) in the ranks of the socialist countries. [applause] You must use all your power to educate our toiling people with an anti-imperialist spirit, introduce imperialism to them with its real feature, as the enemy of humanity, and nurture in them a love and respect for all workers movements. Tell them about peace and respect for all socialist countries and deep respect and brotherly friendship for the USSR. [applause] Inform our people of our revolution and the achievements of our revolution with the cooperation of brotherly and peaceful help of our socialist countries, particularly the USSR. [passage indistinct]

AMIN TAKES MEASURES TO OUTLAW BRIBERY IN GOVERNMENT

LD172132 Kabul in Pashto to Europe 1530 GMT 17 Dec 79 LD

[Text] Comrade Hafizollah Amin, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan Central Committee, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, chaired a meeting of the Council of Ministers yesterday from 1600 to 2100 at the People's House. Comrade Amin spoke of the administrative improvements and said that bribery and intermediaries should not be allowed in government organs. They are both regarded as crimes and are against the essence of our Khalqi movement. Countenancing these two actions damages the progress and (quality) of the revolution.

The champion commander of the Sawr revolution said all departmental heads should be told that these two anti-Khalqi manifestations should be promptly avoided. (Those) who take bribes or who use intermediaries involve not only those who employ these methods but also the director or the head of that department or institute who has not succeeded in stopping such actions.

Comrade Amin, chairman of the Revolutionary Council and prime minister, said that as we are at the service of our noble people, all government personnel should also assume their allotted duties and accomplish them without prevarication. In time of difficulties, they should pay attention to the problems of the people and should avoid unduly troubling the people.

The Council of Ministers, on the basis of the proposal by the Ministry of Justice, discussed the laws relating to government enterprises, it was decided that the said laws should be further discussed in future Council of Ministers meetings.

On the basis of the Ministry of Finance proposal, the income from the 20 taxing grades, in accordance with Appendix No 8 of the law on taxes and income, have been arranged into 60 grades, this was approved by the Council of Ministers.

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On the basis of the Ministry of Mines and Industries proposal, imports of the (?wool) enterprise of Kandahar and other private enterprises, have been exempted from customs charges. Similarly, the Hairatan port authority was instructed that cement for use by government and other departments up to 16 December should be exempt from custom duties. The Council of Ministries, on the basis of the Ministry of Public Health, has decided that the Afghan Red Crescent should make (?similar payment) to the International Red Cross Committee in future years as in 1979.

BANGLADESH

JOINT INSPECTION TEAM EXAMINES BORDER

BK180326 Dacca Domestic Service in English 0145 GMT 18 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh-India joint team, under the Joint Rivers Commission, yesterday inspected the progress of the demolition of spurs constructed on both sides of the River Muhari, flowing along the boundary between the two countries. An official source said in Dacca last night that seven spurs on the Indian side have been more or less demolished. The demolition of another two spurs on the Indian side is scheduled to be completed by Thursday next. Two spurs on the Bangladesh side have already been demolished. The joint inspection team will carry out another inspection on Friday.

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER MAUDUD AHMED LEAVES FOR KATMANDU

BK171442 Dacca Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 17 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh deputy prime minister, Mr Maudud Ahmed, has left Dacca for Katmandu at the invitation of the Nepalese Government. Mr Maudud, who is also in charge of the Ministry of Power, Water Resources and Flood Control, is accompanied by the chairman of the Water Development Board and a member of the India-Bangladesh Joint Rivers Commission.

INDIA

PROVOCATION ALONG TRIPURA BORDER CONTINUES

BK180929 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 18 Dec 79 BK

[Text] Provocation by Bangladesh Rifles along Tripura's southern border with Bangladesh is continuing. According to official sources in Agartala today, a group of Bangladesh nationals tried to enter the Char land off Belonia under cover of firing by Bangladesh Rifles last night. The BSF [Border Security Force] fired two rounds to scare away the intruders. There was no casualties on the Indian side.

JOINT TEAM INSPECTS DEMOLITION OF RIVER SPURS

BK171630 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 17 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Indo-Bangladesh joint team under the Joint Rivers Commission today completed its inspection of the demolition of spurs constructed on both sides of the River Muhari. Official sources in Agartala said a total of eight spurs, five on the Indian side and three on the Bangladesh side of the river, have been demolished.

BANGLADESH 'ADHERES' TO 1974 BOUNDARY ACCORD

BK180328 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 18 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Bangladesh High Commission in New Delhi has said that its government fully adheres to the 1974 agreement on the boundary with India in its letter and spirit. The commission made this clarification in the context of a report published in a section of the press.

REDDY CALLS FOR FREE, FAIR, PEACEFUL ELECTION

BK141615 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1500 GMT 14 Dec 79 BK

[Indian President Sanjiva Reddy's 14 December address to the nation--recorded]

[Text] Since I spoke to you last in October this year a significant stage in the election process has been completed. The contending political parties have put out their election manifestos and have fielded their candidates. We are ready for the poll. It is now for you to exercise your sovereign right as voters and express your preference for programs and individual candidates who will ultimately reflect your will in Parliament. The ensuing elections will give you an opportunity to put into positions of trust and responsibility for the next 5 years persons of character and integrity and a good record of public service.

During the struggle for independence, our goal was freedom from foreign rule. Having achieved this objective, we decided that the democratic way of life is most suitable to our ancient culture, our rich traditions and the genius of our people. For 32 years since independence we have worked hard to build, preserve and maintain our way of life. We have achieved in this vast country a measure of unity in diversity for which we are respected. We are the world's largest democracy and can hold our heads high in the comity of nations because of the dignity we command on this account.

As we look upon the world scene today we see the severe strain to which the democratic way of life is being subjected to all round us. The world watches us not without some apprehension as we prepare to go to the polls. I am confident that our people will, as in the past, discharge the heavy responsibility cast on them with maturity and objectivity. This will prove to the world community and to ourselves that our faith in democracy remains unshaken. Election campaigns do necessarily raise controversy and tempers are occasionally frayed. I appeal to you, my countrymen, not to do any thing by word or deed which will tarnish the fine reputation we have built up for ourselves as a mature nation.

Public conduct so far has been exemplary and our people have been acting with commendable restraint and civic sense. We need to hold the coming elections in a peaceful and orderly manner so that every voter is allowed to exercise his or her franchise out of free will and without fear, favor or other inducement. If we complete the rest of the election process in the same manner as we have conducted the last six general elections, we shall ever remain a shining example to the rest of the world as a people firmly wedded to the principles of democracy and peaceful orderly conduct of national affairs. It is the duty of each one of us citizens of this great country to prove once again that we are a mature nation wedded to nonviolence and that the democratic way of life is indeed precious to us. I therefore, appeal to you to so conduct yourselves in the coming few weeks that elections are held in a calm and peaceful atmosphere. This is the greatest tribute that you can win for yourselves as citizens of this great democracy. By so doing you will also help to preserve the tradition that, come what may, India will remain for all time the world's largest democracy.

Let us rise above petty considerations and bear in mind that in the ultimate analysis the national interest is above everything else. There will no doubt be some cynics who will try to distort your vision and objectivity. Do not pay heed to them.

As conscientious law abiding citizens your duty is to insure by your individual conduct that free and fair elections are a way of life in our country and that the people's will is reflected in the choice of their representatives to Parliament which is the nation's supreme arbiter. I am sure that all of you will get together on this occasion to preserve our fine traditions and insure that our faith in democracy endures forever.

Events in some parts of the country have given us cause for anxiety. This is a passing phase and I am confident that wiser counsel will ultimately prevail. Let us subordinate short term gains to our long term national interest. We will then do instinctively what is expected of us in the circumstances. Jai Hind. [Hail India]

GANDHI SAYS EMERGENCY 'MISTAKES' WILL NOT BE REPEATED

BK150950 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0245 GMT 15 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The Congress-I president, Mrs Indira Gandhi, says there is unrest in virtually all spheres of national life and people have lost confidence and feel insecure. Speaking at a meeting at the capital, she said there are indications of anarchy and communalism threatening the sovereignty of the nation. She accused the Janata Party of having fanned castism and regionalism which, she said, are assuming dangerous proportions.

Mrs Gandhi gave an assurance to the people that mistakes committed during the emergency will never be repeated. Some mistakes were committed and we have already apologized for them, she added. She said SAMACHAR NEWS AGENCY will not be formed again if her party is voted to power.

NEPAL

BIRENDRA DELIVERS CONSTITUTION DAY SPEECH

BK161700 Katmandu External Service in English 1450 GMT 16 Dec 79 BK

[Excerpts] His majesty the king, in a message to the nation on the occasion of the King Mahendra Memorial and Constitution Day, today said the Panchayat policy in some [word indistinct] would have completed nearly 2 decades since it was first introduced in our land.

His majesty said the will of the people as is known to all constitutes the mainstream of the Panchayat system. Accordingly, we have assured our beloved people that we shall always stand by the ideals of democracy. It was precisely in reference to these commitments that following the situation at the beginning of this year we decided to call for the holding of a national referendum in Nepal. At least once we know the popular verdict, the referendum will help not only to realize the will of the people but also to establish the course this nation has to take for itself. Obviously, it should also reflect the adjustments the people will have to make on the situation obtaining in and outside of Nepal before and after the 24 May proclamation.

His majesty added: In our view, the national referendum poses an unprecedented chance to every adult in Nepal in exercising one's franchise. Everyone before he makes a choice will reflect upon which policies will contribute to the harmony, order and unity rather than the discord and disunity among the people of Nepal.

In a country as diverse and heterogeneous as ours, what is it that is (?keeping) the people together in unison, in bonds of harmony and in peace? Given today's international situation, by which means is it possible to make this country a zone of peace rather than an arena of tension? Similarly, through what system is it possible to promote speedy economic development for the common good by harnessing the human and natural resources of Nepal? What policy can give to every Nepali the opportunity to [word indistinct] to criticize fearlessly and without pressure from anyone? What system can guarantee to each Nepali the right to speak, write and express one's views freely, fearlessly and without infringing upon the similar rights of others? What policy will permit public criticism without which no collective measure can be taken? Similarly, what system will enable every Nepali to grant for others the same rights that he speaks out for himself? Again, what policy will help us to preserve the values, culture and tradition indigenous to this country? And finally, what system will help safeguard the independence, the sovereignty and the territorial integrity of Nepal now and hereafter? These are some of the questions that will make every Nepali to enjoy the right of adult franchise answerable to posterity.

His majesty went on: The Panchayat constitution recognizes popular will as a bedrock of its [words indistinct]. We have moreover repeatedly affirmed our desire to hold on to the wisdom of certain ideals. It is in keeping with the same values and commitments that after the forthcoming referendum, whether the multiparty or partyless system emerges victorious, we have assured to clarify some of these points. These are: From now on, all elections should be held to the national legislature taking place solely on the basis of the adult franchise. Similarly, the convention to appoint our prime minister on the basis of a recommendation of the national legislature shall be followed in the future. Besides, the Council of Ministers will be made responsible to the national legislature for their (?line of conduct). This is not to suggest that we are trying to evade the responsibilities we owe to our people.

His majesty continued: In the interest of Nepal and the Nepali people, we shall as best as we can defend the ideals of Nepali people, we shall as best as we can defend the ideals of democracy. We shall not shirk from the responsibility we owe to our people in maintaining peace, stability, security, order and justice, together with the protection, preservation and safety of the national independence, sovereignty and the territorial integrity of our motherland.

PAKISTAN

DJIBOUTI PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN ISLAMABAD 16 DEC

Welcomed by Haq

EK161000 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu 0800 GMT 16 Dec 79 EK

[Text] The president of Djibouti, Hassan Gouled Aptidon, accompanied by his wife, arrived in Islamabad this morning on a 5-day official visit to Pakistan. He was welcomed on arrival by President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq and Begun Ziaul Haq at the Islamabad airport. The heads of both countries warmly embraced each other and shook hands. A 21-gun salute greeted the distinguished visitors as two young children presented bouquets to President Hassan Gouled Aptidon and his wife. An honor guard was presented by contingents of the three armed services.

Among those present at the airport to welcome the Djibouti president were the deputy chief of staff of the army, the navy and air force chiefs, federal ministers, federal secretaries and members of the diplomatic corps. Following the airport ceremonies, the Djibouti president accompanied President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in a motorcade to the guest house.

A Radio Pakistan representative says the route from the airport to the guest house was beautifully decorated with flags of both countries, bunting, and large welcome banners. Formal talks between the Djibouti president and President Ziaul Haq will take place in Rawalpindi later this evening. President Ziaul Haq will host a banquet in honor of the distinguished guests. Earlier, the Djibouti president, after an overnight stay in Karachi, was seen off at Karachi airport prior to departure for the federal capital by the Sindh Governor, Lt Gen S.M. Abbasi, and high officials.

Formal Talks

BK161526 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 16 Dec 79 BK

[Text] The president of Djibouti, Al-Haj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, and President Mohammad Ziaul Haq held detailed talks in Rawalpindi today on bilateral relations and the regional and international situation. The talks lasted over 3 hours.

The Radio Pakistan diplomatic correspondent says the talks will be continued at the ministerial level tomorrow morning. The Pakistani team will be led by the adviser on foreign affairs, Mr Agha Shahi. The Djibouti foreign minister will lead his team. The talks will review bilateral relations.

The Radio Pakistan correspondent says both countries are bound together by close ties of Islamic brotherhood. Both countries are members of the Islamic conference and the nonaligned movement.

17 Dec Banquet

BK170536 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 17 Dec 79 BK

[Text] President Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq has said that bilateral relations between Pakistan and Djibouti will further develop as a result of the useful exchange of views between himself and President Hassan Gouled Aptidon.

Speaking at a banquet which he hosted in honor of the president of Djibouti in Rawalpindi last night, he said that during the talks it had been their desire to meet the needs of Djibouti to the maximum extent possible. He said he is confident that the visit of President Hassan Gouled Aptidon will prove to be a milestone in the friendship between the two countries.

The president said in international affairs Pakistan adheres to the principles of peaceful coexistence and promoting mutual benefit, and wants to develop its relations with Djibouti on the basis of these principles. Pakistan is confident of the success of its efforts.

Referring to the friendly relations between Pakistan and Djibouti, the Pakistani president said the two countries are linked together by strong ties of Islamic brotherhood. He said Pakistan attaches great importance to its relations with Djibouti as it has an overwhelming Muslim population. He said both countries are members of the nonaligned movement and the Islamic conference and want to conduct their international relations on the basis of the principles of peaceful coexistence. The president said Pakistan wants to have good relations not only with the Islamic countries but with all countries. He said Pakistan wants to remain free of big power rivalry so it can devote itself to the welfare and betterment of its people. That is why Pakistan left CENTO and joined the nonaligned movement. He said Pakistan is grateful to Djibouti for its support to Pakistan in joining the nonaligned movement.

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The president said Pakistan has always been in the forefront of the struggle of the oppressed people of Africa against the racist regimes of South Africa and Rhodesia. He said Pakistan will continue its efforts for the eradication of racial discrimination until it is eliminated in South Africa and majority governments are set up in Namibia and other African countries. Referring to Pakistan's efforts to establish a nuclear weapons free zone in South Asia, the president said these efforts were in fact aimed at making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. He said if the Middle East, Africa and the ASEAN member countries are also declared nuclear weapons free zones, this would greatly help promote regional peace and security.

Replying, the Djibouti president, Al-Haj Hassan Gouled Aptidon, emphasized the importance of an understanding dialog among all nations and said that his visit to Pakistan and the exchange of ideas with its leaders would prove very useful. He said Pakistan occupies a special position and has a great place in the hearts of the people of Djibouti. He said he has brought warm fraternal sentiments from the people of Djibouti for the Pakistani people. He said they pray for the progress and prosperity of Pakistan which he said was among those countries which had extended valuable support and assistance in Djibouti's independence.

Both presidents expressed their keen desire to work toward closer Islamic solidarity. President Aptidon said the Islamic conference should plan an effective role in promoting concerted efforts on the part of all Muslim countries for the liberation of all Arab occupied lands, the restoration of the sacred city of Jerusalem and the establishment of a Palestinian state. He called for a similar united approach for the liberation of the subjugated people of Africa. The two presidents discussed bilateral relations and the regional and international situation for over 3 hours in Rawalpindi yesterday. The talks will resume at the ministerial level this morning.

Ordnance Factory Visit

BK171215 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 17 Dec 79 BK

[Text] President Hassan Gouled Aptidon of Djibouti visited the Pakistan Ordnance Factory [POF] at [name indistinct] today. He was accompanied by members of the delegation and the federal minister for food and agriculture, Rear Adm Mohammad Fazil Janjua. The visiting president was shown round various sections of the factory and saw for himself the production of arms. He evinced keen interest in the production of arms and asked questions about it. He also fired some shots from a rifle manufactured by the factory.

Later, speaking at the officers mess at the end of his visit to the factory, President Hassan Gouled Aptidon said that the ability and courage of Pakistan was needed to help strengthen its own security and that of the entire Muslim world. He said all the countries, which had been colonized in the past, had not been left with anything. He said Pakistan had made great efforts and it should continue these efforts. He felicitated the military and civil officers for their efforts. The Djibouti president referred to his discussions with the Pakistan president, Gen Mohammad Ziaul Haq, on social, economic, cultural, technical and scientific aspects yesterday and said they are going to conclude these accords this evening. He thanked President Ziaul Haq and all his officers for receiving him and his delegation extremely well. Earlier in his address of welcome, the chairman of the ordnance factory, Maj Gen Sayed Ali Nawab, briefly explained the role of the factory in defense production for the country. He said the production and technical ability of personnel of the factory was at the disposal of the governments of Islam in the world. Later, the POF chairman presented a crest of the ordnance factory to the visiting president and another gift to Madame Aptidon.